

Preface

This book has evolved over several months of collecting articles from ex students. It began with discussions over morning tea at Ted and Helen Robinsons' where many suggestions were put forward.

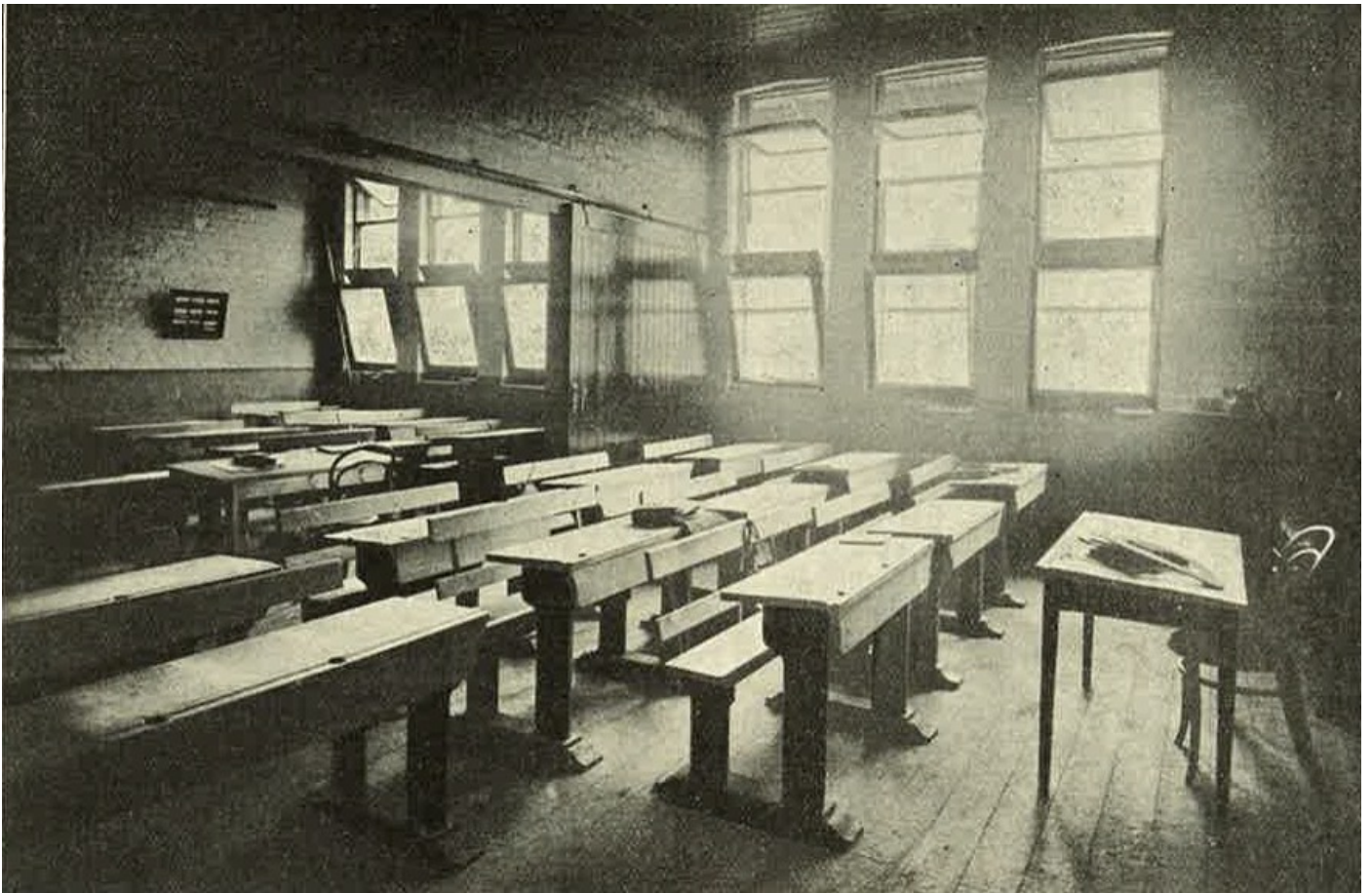
Our team has attempted to provide a wide range of our ex students: those who have established themselves internationally, many of whom are (were) based in America, U.K., Hong Kong, Europe, Antarctica and the Pacific Islands; men and women, some of whom gained Ph.D's well before it was fashionable for women to go to university; those who are responsible for many of the good things that happen in the Ararat community; and a wide range of people: farmers, artists, musicians, nurses, doctors, businesspeople, sportspeople, financiers, teachers, academics, ministers of religion, politicians, builders, managers, producers of films, adventurers and those many in the defence forces as well as many others.

These people in the book were nominated by ex students and the school community. Nominations were called for in The Advertiser, school newsletter and the college website. Nominations came in immediately from Geelong, Ballarat, Gippsland and, of course, Ararat. There are several who did not reply to their nomination, some who could not be contacted and a small number who declined. Nevertheless, this book is an outstanding list of the achievements of so many who went through the doors of Ararat High School, Ararat Technical School, Ararat Secondary College, Ararat Community College and Ararat College. These are the people selected for the book, people who can inspire the present generation to realise their own potential and to bravely follow their own particular talents.

Janine Adams is in charge of the centenary celebrations and it is she who suggested the book. Janine along with Jo Richie, Ray Spencer, Frank Kitchen, Lois Reynolds, Val Spalding, Gayle Dadswell, Peter Brennan, Bridget Kelly, Andrew Reynolds and the VCAL students have contributed articles; Sue Burke in the Office who worked on presentation and collation, Lyn Thomas for her proof reading and Kevin Bowles for his technical support. Many in the community have helped with nominations and ideas. Others have helped plan the decades, read over the text and research nominees. To each and every person who has in any way contributed to this publication, we sincerely thank you for helping bring to fruition this important memento that celebrates the history of our College.

I hope you are inspired by reading the lives of so many students and you should find many old friends.

Rick Thomas



Images on front cover.

1915 Girls Basketball team

1917 Junior Intermediate Classes

1922 Group of High School Pupils

1913 - 1922

The first decade of the Ararat High School begins with an 1867 Flour Mill which was burnt out in 1902. It was restored for Ararat Grammar in 1909 as Mr Butchers had moved from The Church of England Grammar School after one year in charge and some irreconcilable differences. This school was converted to a State Elementary School in 1912 before becoming the all important High School with Forms 1 to 6 under Mr Butchers in 1913. Many in town challenged the concept of secondary education let alone a High School. It began with 104 students. There was a teaching staff of six. Only students who had passed the qualifying exam at grade 6 could enter the High School.

Mr Butchers was Headmaster for four years, 1913 to 1917. It was a very challenging time with WW1, a School Council which nearly threw him out and little money spare for education because of the war. Yet one sign of Butchers' standing is seen in the letters sent to him by ex students serving in the war. All indicate great respect and it is interesting to read their accounts of life in training camps and on the war front.

The letters to Mr Butcher are revealing. Norman Cooper writes:

"The Ballarat people are good to us. The sheep pens have had board floors put in, and we are sleeping on them – eight in a pen. The menu is not hard to remember, viz., bully beef for breakfast, stew for dinner, and bread and jam for tea."

Another letter comes from Ascot Vale:

"Dear Mr Butchers, Just a few lines from the sheep pens. I have quite settled down to camp life, and the bread and jam and stew. For the first few days it was amusing to hear the ba-ing and bleating of the men, imitating the former occupants of these pens. The grounds, which are large, are laid out in streets, and avenues, all of which are named, and this helps visitors in finding where their relations and friends are camped. Otherwise it would be no easy matter to find a person amongst the large number (about 7000) of men camped here."

We are all enjoying this life, and it is far better than we were led to expect. We rise at reveille (6.30a.m.) for roll call, have coffee at 6.40a.m., physical jerks from 7 to 7.40 a.m. Breakfast (stew), at 8 a.m. Fall in at 9.30 a.m. for morning parade. We are marched out to one of the vacant areas close to the ground, and are drilled till 12.30. We are then dismissed for dinner (stew). We fall in again at 1.30p.m. for afternoon parade, and drill till 4 p.m., then march back to our quarters, and are then dismissed for the day. On Saturdays we drill till 11 a.m., and on Sundays we only parade for church parade."

A.M.S. Wild from London still has a strong link to Ararat High.

"I have met a good many Ararat boys over here. I heard that L. Fay had got his captaincy. He is a good man, and is, or was, very much liked by his men. I think I told dad that I had lunch with him in his dugout in Shrapnel Gully, at ANZAC. If any more A.H.S. chaps are over here I would like their units and regiments, etc."

At least three ex students died in action: at Gallipoli, France and Belgium; William T. Johns who died at Gallipoli in 1915, Walter Russell Ching died in Belgium in 1917 and Albert Charles Toole who died in France, 1918.

Mr Butchers was succeeded briefly by Mr Rivell for 1918. By now the numbers at A.H.S were down to 89 students. Then Mr Bishop took over from 1919 to 1924. There was an urgent need for classrooms. These duly arrived: science room, art rooms and preparatory room; an oval and girls' playing field were developed with the help of working bees. Even a croquet lawn was set up. This was also the time that the House system started with three houses named after local ranges: Chalambar, Grampians and Pyrenees. Mr Bishop was an active man. Not requiring a long break from school, he spent much of his holiday visiting families with a view to increase the student numbers. It seemed to work and by 1923 there were 157 students. He also initiated the local scholarship program. By 1921, there were already 21 scholarships.

Sir Frederick Rudolph William Scherger KBE CB DSO AFC

Born 1904 - 1984

Ararat High School 1916 - 1920

Air Chief Marshal - Royal Australian Air Force



Frederick Scherger was born at Cathcart, five miles west of Ararat. He began formal training at the Norval State School. There he showed a zest for learning and was dux of his class each year. In 1916 he continued his education at the Ararat High School. The boy who rode his white faced chestnut pony the five miles to Ararat High School was very popular with pupils and teachers. Sporting activities were a natural part of a rural community. He wasn't a good footballer but a good bowler of cricket and was amongst the best tennis players at the school. Both the Headmaster Mr Rivell and Science Master supported his ambitions and gave him extended coaching.

Ararat Advertiser 4th Jan 1921.

"F.R.W. Scherger of the local High School was a successful candidate at the Duntroon Military College. He obtained first for Victorian (843 1/2 marks). This being the second time this honour had been gained by an Ararat High School boy, whilst he is the fourth lad that has passed from this School."

On entering the College Frederick found he had already covered the syllabus in mathematics, physics and chemistry. He won the king medal - a swot prize at the College. "because of those teachers back in my earlier youth". On leaving Duntroon "Scherger" as he was known transferred to the R.A.A.F. He became a very proficient pilot and administrator. He tested the First Australian built Wirraway and was the first Australian to fly at twice the speed of sound. At the outbreak of world war 2 he was director of training at Airforce Headquarters Melbourne. He was an outstanding leader and held many responsible positions during and after the war. Some of these were.

- Commanded Allied Air Forces which fought at Aitape and Noemfoor. (Distinguished Service Order.
- The only Australian Air Force Officer to command U.S. and Australian Air Force in the South West Pacific area.
- At the end of the war he led the R.A.A.F. fighter wing element of the British Occupation Force in Japan.

In 1957 he became Chief of the Air Staff. In 1961 appointed Chairman of the Australian Airlines Commission and later Chairman of the Board of the Australian Air Craft Corporation. Sir Frederick Scherger was the first man born in the Ararat District to receive knighthood. Also a mountain in the Antarctic is named after him.

He married Thelma Hillan Harricks of 'Morlancourt' Ararat 1st June 1929. They had a daughter Jill. His wife tragically died in a car accident in 1974. He later remarried to Mrs Joy Robertson.

Sir Frederick passed away in January 1984 and a funeral was held with full military honours that included a flypast.

Harold Mc Millan

Born 1905 - 1986

Ararat High School 1919 - 1923

Founder Mc Millan Bus Company

Pioneer of passenger transport services



Born 1905, Harold commenced his education at the Rhymney school, after which he attended Ararat High School, riding his bike 14 kilometres each way to and from school. He started in Form 2 because his school records were very good.

He declined an offer of employment from the Bank Manager as he always wanted to work for himself. As Harold was always 'motor car mad' (his words), he started work at the Argyle Garage, then with Tom Butt (for experience only—no pay for six months) after which he was paid 10/- per week. After a short period with Lanes Motors, he accepted an offer as Road Forman between Nhill and Kaniva.

Harolds' savings of fifty pounds purchased his first bus - a 1927 Chevrolet with eleven perimeter seats.

Over the next forty years, he added taxis (Ararat Taxi Service), more buses, contractual services with Education Department, operating school buses (H.F. Mc Millan Motors/Coaches), the Ararat Motors Garage was opened, taxis sold and fifteen years of operating H.F. Mc Millan Machinery Company.

Harold was joined by his sons, Ivor in 1945 and John in 1954—so commenced the family involvement. From 1979, V/Line Road Coaches were added and by the 1990's the fleet consisted on 32 vehicles.

The working relationship with Ararat High School and McMillans lasted over five decades during which time there was a mutual respect and a capacity to be accommodating.

Harold passed away in 1986, having pioneered passenger transport services in the Ararat region.

In 2000, the McMillan era ended with the sale of the business after seven decades of transportation history.



Isaac George Coad

Born 1904 - 1987

Ararat High School 1918 - 1921

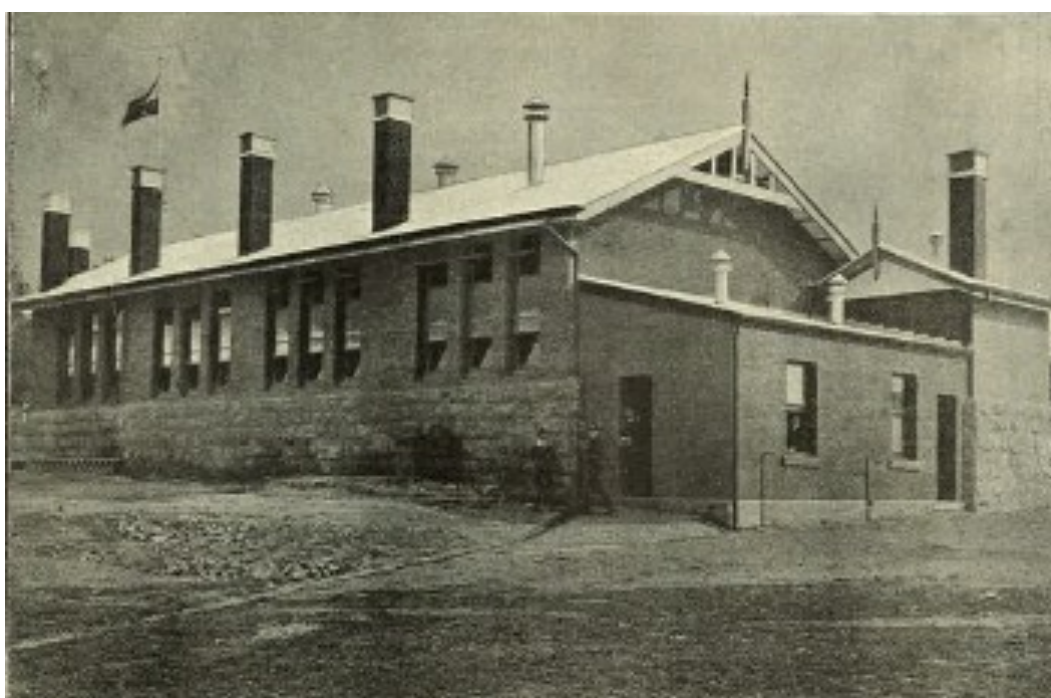
Service to the Community



Ike was born at Rocky Point and attended both Rocky Point and Moyston Primary School completing his education at Ararat High school. He rode his bike each day to attend Ararat High and was the first Captain of Grampians House. After completing secondary school he became a Primary Teacher and taught in Gippsland, Tatyoon and Ararat 800.

He returned to farming when he was 21 after the death of his father and continued farming in the Rocky Point and Moyston areas for the rest of his life. He married Mary McKinnon in 1931 and together they raised four children, all of whom attended Ararat High. Ironically one of his daughters Margaret (Chapman) taught at Ararat for many years. Ike was very committed to the community and worked tirelessly to promote the interests of and opportunities for country people. He was president of the Moyston Sheep Dog Trials Association and a respected member of the Working Sheep Dog Association of Victoria. He was a passionate breeder of Border Collie Dogs and his stud "Clivus" became the father of many blood lines in Australia.

His interest in education encouraged him to be a member of the Moyston State School Committee and later the Ararat Technical School Advisory Council. He was a long time Captain of the Moyston Fire Brigade. In 1955 he became an Ararat Shire Councillor, a position he held for nineteen years, serving two terms as president. During this time he participated in the development of Lake Bellfield. He was instrumental in bringing water and electricity to Moyston and was always interested in developing community facilities.





HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS 1924

Back Row: Left to Right - A. Bryant, E. Bulte, G. Byrne, F. Bishop, K. Lang, A. Blackman, A. Fowler, L. Richards, Les Lockland, W. Bryson, F. Millington, J. Staines, E. Bates. Middle Row: E. Dare, Hazel Martin, Joyce Clarkson, Mavis Borbridge, Millie Anderson, Ethel Dolby, Mr. W. J. Bishop (Head Teacher), Nancy Nicholl, Ruth Dare, Lilian Butterfield, Melva Beddoe, Annie Brown. Front Row: Phil Bishop, George Biggin, Ivy Aston, Doris Carr, Henry Billett, ---.

1923 - 1932

Mr Bishop's reign ended in 1924 and Mr H.W. Parker began his long tenure in 1925. He was Headmaster for 18 years until 1942, a difficult period with the Depression and WW2. Yet the numbers climbed, 196 in 1928 and over 200 by the end of the decade. Development of the buildings and grounds was necessary but these were tough times. The depression affected all.

" Meals of bread and dripping were the main fare for many who were without employment ... A lasting memory of those hard times following the Great Depression was that of 'travellers' or 'swagmen' who would arrive at the back door seeking a meal and a billy of tea."¹

It is therefore not surprising that new school buildings were restricted. In fact it is probably surprising that any building works were achieved at all during this decade. However, in 1928, plans came to fruition in the form of a large art room, a library, a drawing/sewing room and a woodwork room. Grounds were expanded and fences erected to keep out stock which included goats. The boarding school continued to operate for those outside the town.

(1. "Fegeli, de Fegely Fribourg to Ararat R.S. de Fegely)



GRAMPIANS HOUSE, ARARAT HIGH SCHOOL 1924

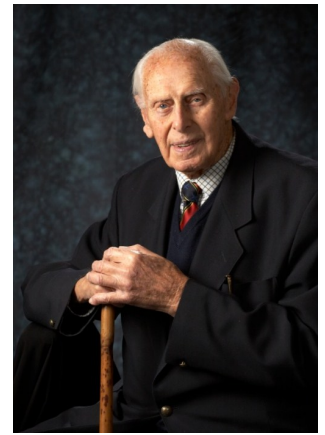
Back Row: Left to Right - Mick Hargreaves, Harry Zachariah, Lionel Richards, Sid Beddoe, Brian Wild, Frank Bishop, Clem Emmett, Ernie Bulte, Fred Millington. 4th Row: Don Paynter, Phil Brady, Bob Finch, Jack Hicks, Jack McGibbony, Les Lockland, Cyril Madex, Norman Smart, Jack Ellis, Mervyn Candy, 3rd Row: Ivy Aston, Thelma Storey, Evelyn Scherger, Barbara Syme, Mavis Long, Gwen Gilchrist, Dollie Turner, Millie Warren. 2nd Row: Elsie Scholes, Hazel Martin, Annie Brown, Mollie Shephard, Celia Clark, Doris Cook, Phyllis Forster, Rose Battye, Doris Carr. Front Row: Stan Wallis, Ray Lardner, Archie Muller, Stan Burke, Harry Billett, Jack Mountjoy.

Harry Zachariah

Born 1911 - 2009

Ararat High School 1924 - 1927

First-class Cricketer and Teacher



Harry Zachariah, was an elite cricketer and educator whose dedication extended beyond his six-decade career as a teacher. He was Victoria's oldest surviving first-class cricketer at the time of his death. Zachariah was born in the Adelaide Hills and enjoyed the simplicity of country life on his father's orchard, a life that involved neither motorised nor horse-drawn vehicle but did include much walking, something he continued all his life. He never had any desire to gain a driver's licence. His school days were happy both at Upper Sturt and at Ararat after the family moved there in 1923. His love of sport and teaching was fostered by the enthusiastic staff at Ararat High School, where he finished as school captain, and was involved in three cricket and two football premierships. A broken ankle saw him switch from a prospective career with the railways to his real love, teaching, and he began as a student teacher at Kaniva State School in 1930. However, he needed to save to enter secondary teaching so mid-year he moved back to Ararat High School as a junior teacher and saved while living at home. Zachariah's cricket flourished at Ararat, which won him selection in a Country Week team that played against the West Indies in Geelong. Lindsay Hassett, a future Australian captain, made his debut in that match.

Zachariah was promptly recruited by district side Northcote, which meant he had to be up at 4am to catch the Overland train service to Melbourne. Although awarded blues for cricket and football at university it was cricket where he made his name. With Northcote and later University, he filled a dual role, opening the bowling and later continuing in the attack as a spinner. It was not until he played for St Kilda that he was persuaded to concentrate on left arm wrist spin; he played 72 games for the club, taking 274 wickets at just 13.82 apiece. He took five wickets in an innings 23 times, and three times he took 10 for the match. Twice he took 68 wickets in a season, which remains the club record. In one game he snared four wickets in one over, and in another he took 8-40 in the first innings and 8-42 in the second. He finished his district cricket days at Richmond, where he took a further 47 wickets in 25 matches. Overall, he played 175 games and took 516 wickets at an excellent average of 18.58. Zachariah also held 50 catches, and as a battling tailender, he scored 544 runs at an average of 8.79. In representative games, he played for an Australian universities team against the visiting MCC, and twice played for Victoria against Tasmania.

He enrolled at Melbourne Teachers College in 1933. The next years were a whirl of activity; cricket and football for the university, studying, courting and marrying Joan Salmon, a year teaching at Melbourne High School, and the birth of their first child, Sue. Despite the presence of Bill Woodfull, an immediate past Victorian and Australian captain, on the staff, it was the junior English teacher Zachariah who was appointed coach of the school's first XI. The team included a young and slight Keith Miller, who went through the season without being dismissed in any match.

The teacher-coach and pupil forged a lifetime friendship, enriched by playing against each other on Saturdays. But prospects were slim, and in 1937 Zachariah moved to Swinburne Technical College. Five years later, and by then with two young children, he joined Brighton Grammar School and began an association that would continue, with one interlude, for the remainder of his life.

In November 1952, he accepted an offer from the headmaster of Hamilton College and from May 1953 until December 1959, Zachariah devoted himself to improving the college and increasing enrolments, which saved it from being disbanded by the Presbyterian Church. After he retired in 1988, Zachariah maintained the archives at the school and wrote a large number of valuable pieces of historical interest as well as being co-author of the school's history and publishing two biographical books, *I Remember*, *I Remember* and *Times Winged Chariot*.

Stan Kelly OAM

Born 1911 - 2001

Ararat High School 1925 - 1927

Artist and Naturalist



Stan received an Order of Australia Medal in 1980 in recognition of his service to the community through his paintings and lectures and the influence they had on the growing and appreciation of Australian plants throughout Australia.

Outside of his home town of Ararat, Stan Kelly was best known for his painting of botanical subjects particularly the eucalypts through his books. His first book *40 Australian Eucalypts in Colour* was published in 1949 and later *Eucalypts Volume I & II* were published featuring his paintings. The illustrations in these books give an indication of his artistic talent that extended beyond botanical works. Painting was one of his great loves and he always went home from SGAP (as it was then) meetings armed with specimens to paint and to share with his painting class. People who have attended the Grampians Group flower show may remember seeing Stan's stunning fungi paintings displayed on the walls of the hall. A set of cards featuring his fungi paintings has been produced for sale by Amnesty International.

He was a life member of the APS Grampians Group and the Ararat and District Field Naturalists Club. He was a foundation member of the latter. He was the teacher of a painting class for many years and this class continued to meet weekly although Stan had not been well enough to attend for some time.

Stan had a great enthusiasm for life. He readily admired other peoples' talents and took a keen interest in the world around him. He was a lover of nature, an avid reader, a prospector, a keen fisherman and an articulate teller of stories. A walk in the bush with Stan was always a delight! His enthusiasm, his knowledge, his appreciation of simple beauty and his stories - these are the memories that will stay with those of us fortunate enough to have shared trips in the bush with him.

Source: *Growing Australian*, June 2001, Joan Pitaro, Ararat

Also in: H.Hewson *Australia - 300 Years of Botanical Illustration* (1999)



"Swamp or Flat-topped Eucalypt"
Euc. occidentalis

*Botanical Gardens
Melbourne June 1950*



Euc. humilis

*Botanical Gardens Melbourne
7 October 1955*

Eric William Gibson

Born 1915 - 1999

Ararat High School 1927 - 1929

Returned Serviceman WWII R.A.A.F



Eric ('Ec' to those who knew him) was the second of four children, with older brother Ian and sisters Mary and Jean, all of whom attended Ararat High School. Their father William was a wheelwright in the town and their mother Elizabeth, the daughter of well known Beaufort pioneer and businessman John Bennie Cochran.

The family moved from Nhill to Ararat in 1919 after the end of the First World War, a war which took the life of Eric's mother's younger brother, William Bennie Cochran, in the Battle of Passchendaele. They moved into a house in Banfield Street which abutted the Canton Lead gold mining area. It is thought the reason for the family move was a financial one and Eric's father took up his trade in Ararat to support his young family. Eric's time at Ararat High School, although relatively short, was one of great enjoyment to him. A great pity of those times was the lack of opportunity for students to fully realize their full scholastic potential due to economical conditions. Both Eric and Ian were excellent students with Ian attaining school dux one year and Eric coming second. As was also a common occurrence in those times, Eric and his siblings only remained at secondary school for a couple of years before they left to take up any employment they could find. Times were tough, with the onset of the Great Depression forcing children into early employment. After Eric left school at 14, he took up employment as a wool presser on a large sheep station belonging to a man named King. However, Eric's goal was to become a train driver and he applied to join the railway. He was accepted as a 'bridge and rail ganger' because he did not have the scholastic requirements for a train driver. Eric's father died in 1934 and things got very tough for the family.

They moved to the township of Yallourn around 1939 and Eric got a job as a trimmer with the State Electricity Commission. With the announcement of war in 1939, Eric enlisted in the 114th Reserve Motor Transport Company based in Caulfield and did two three month courses with that unit. He decided that rather than drive to war, he would rather fly, so he applied for the Royal Australian Air Force. He was accepted for aircrew training and commenced his training in Somers, Victoria, learned to fly at Western Junction in Tasmania and was then posted to Canada for advanced flying. One of the other airmen who Eric travelled to Canada with, was a fellow by the name of C.W.Tingwell who later became well known as Australian actor 'Bud' Tingwell. Eric and 'Bud' became friends after the war and met regularly at Anzac Day reunions. After Canada, Eric was posted to the U.K. , where, after further training, he was posted to two English bomber squadrons piloting Stirling and Avro Lancaster bombers in Bomber Command. Eric completed a full tour of thirty bombing operations over Europe, rose to the rank of Flying officer and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for courage over enemy territory. At the time Eric was flying these operations, Bomber Command was suffering horrific losses over Germany, with only about 1/3 of aircrew surviving their 30 operations. On one raid to Nuremberg in March 1944, a total of 94 allied aircraft were lost to enemy action, the most costly raid of the war. Eric stated later that 'You didn't need to navigate to the target that night, all you had to do was follow the burning aircraft on the ground'. His last raid was on French railway targets two days prior to the 'D'Day Normandy invasion. Eric was very lucky to survive, his Flying Log Book recording several attacks by German night fighters. His son is in possession of the nosepiece of an incendiary bomb which was found in one of the engines of his aircraft on its return to base. The bomb had hit the aircraft after being released from another aircraft flying above, which was not an uncommon occurrence, and the nosepiece was removed and kept as a 'souvenir'. Eric had stated that 'if the bomb had gone off, he wouldn't have made it back to Australia'. He completed his wartime flying as an instructor at various bases in the United Kingdom and returned to Australia in 1945.

On return, Eric returned to his previous employer, the State Electricity Commission in Yallourn and married Noella Brown. They had four children, Malcolm, Glen, Barbara and Rhonda. He retired from the S.E.C. in 1980 as a Control Room Supervisor responsible for the generation and transmission of Electricity throughout Victoria. Eric enjoyed his retirement with travel and indulging himself with his lifetime hobby of the restoration of antique radios. He died in 1999.

John Hilbert Cosstick

Born 1917 - 1999

Ararat High School 1929 - 1933

Commissioner of Forests

1937 - 58 Assistant & District Forester, Forests Commission, Victoria

1958 - 66 Assistant & Divisional Forester

1966 - 73 Chief, Economics and Marketing

1973 - 77 Commissioner of Forests



John graduated with his Diploma from the Victorian School of Forestry, Creswick, in 1936 to start a distinguished career in Victoria's Forests Commission, the agency responsible for managing forests covering approximately a third of Victoria. At that time foresters and their families required dedication, initiative and stamina to survive the challenges of life in small, remote communities, often surrounded by forests with limited services and access - sometimes no electricity; horses and bicycles for transport; beer bottles minus tops for jars; and tobacco in short supply, being appropriated for troops during the war!

During 1938-39 and beyond, foresters were preoccupied with devastating fires, supplying timber for the war, and planning for huge anticipated post-war demands for timber, including road construction, harvesting and forest regeneration. Many of today's magnificent regrowth forests bear testament to their endeavours. John's first appointments were as Assistant Forester to Ballarat, Yarram and Orbost Forest Districts (1937-42), followed by District Forester at Nowa Nowa (1942-46), Broadford (1946-48), Upper Yarra (Powelltown, 1948- 51), and Niagaroon (Taggerty, 1951- 58), then Assistant Divisional Forester (1958-64) and Divisional Forester, Southern Division (1964-66), Chief of Division of Sales and Marketing in H.O., Melbourne (1966-73), and finally as one of three Commissioners of Forests (1973-77). A field colleague remembers John as a hard working, dedicated forester with wonderful skills for communicating with technical and administrative staff.

Margaret McArthur

Born 1919 - 2002

Ararat High School 1931 - 1934

Dietician and Anthropologist



Annie Margaret was the eldest of the two McArthur girls, born in 1919. She was an academic student who was always working to the best of her ability. Margaret began her further studies at the University of Melbourne where she graduated in 1941 with a Bachelor of Science, and went on to complete her Master of Science in 1942. On leaving university Margaret began work with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation. Whilst working here Margaret undertook a post-graduate course in nutrition which allowed her to becoming a member of the New Guinea expedition with the Commonwealth Department of Health. It was this expedition and outstanding qualifications that saw her become the head Nutritionist in 1948 - 1949 with the Australian-American Scientific Expedition to Arnhem Land. It was through the research that Margaret conducted that forced scholars to change their perceptions about the role women played in Aboriginal diet and social economy.

After Margaret's expeditions to New Guinea and Arnhem Land she travelled to the University of London where she undertook post graduate work in Social Anthropology. This allowed her to continue with more field work in Papua and submitting her doctoral thesis to the Australian National University in 1962. Margaret worked with the World Health Organisation and the Food and Agricultural Organisation (both branches of the United Nations). Margaret left Australia in 1976 to live in Honolulu where she worked as a Senior Fellow in the Food Institute of the East – West Centre. It was in Honolulu that Margaret died after a long and debilitating illness in 2002. Another truly inspirational graduate from Ararat High School.



Ararat - Circa 1930's



School Council 1920's

1933 - 1942

Mr Parker was Headmaster throughout this decade. By 1933, the student population was 217. A major issue during this time was the Athletic Sports held on a Saturday. There had already been industrial action by the staff who refused to attend one year. The following year two staff presented the argument for a Wednesday Athletics Carnival. The School Council immediately responded with a motion to book the Alexander Oval for a Saturday. However by 1936, the sports were held on a Wednesday. This was also the year when Ararat won the G.S.S.S.A. Athletics aggregate shield. Opposition in these times was frequently Horsham, Hamilton and Warracknabeal.

1937-8 saw the Education Department request safety measures due to a state wide polio epidemic. This led to the cancellation of speech night and there was even a period when the school was closed forcing students to study by correspondence. Then came the War: students helping in raising money, knitting khaki clothing, collecting metals and working for the Red Cross.

Honour Roll	
EX-STUDENTS IN THE SERVICES	
<i>Ex-Students Who Have Lost Their Lives</i>	
Bell, D. LAC, RAAF.	Duckworth, B. A. Pte-Sgt, RAAF.
*Blackie, I. D. Pte-Sgt, RAAF.	Hick, A. N. Sqdn-Ldr, RAAF.
Blackie, R. J. Sgt-Pilot, RAAF.	*Kennedy, A. A. Pte-Sgt, RAAF.
Blake, H. P.O. RAAF.	Kraemer, J. R. Pte-Sgt, RAAF.
Burke, J. H. Cpl, AIF.	Ralph, A. P. Cpl, AIF. (Died while P.O.W.)
Burke, S. C. Cpl, AIF.	*Smart, M. G. Sgt, RAAF.
Chrochil, D. P.O. RAAF.	Walker, S. P. Pte, AIF.
Conboy, W. T. AIF.	
* Presumed killed.	
MEN IN THE SERVICES	
Anderson, C. AIF.	Duckworth, M. Sgt, RAAF.
Bell, D. J. AB, RAN.	Dunn, J. Mc, Spr, AIF.
Bell, W. J. Pte, AIF.	French, L. RAN.
Blake, S. RAN.	Finch, R. O. LAC, RAAF.
Blake, J. Pte, AIF.	Fitzgerald, A. Sig, AIF.
Bloy, A. RAAF.	Flavell, A. W. LAC, RAAF.
Brewster, R. J. Staff Sgt, AIF.	Flavell, G. B. Cpl, RAAF.
Bryson, W. J. Capt, AIF.	Flavell, L. J. Spr, AIF.
Burke, R. G. AC2, RAAF.	Flavell, S. R. LAC, RAAF.
Burke, R. M. Pte-Lieut, RAAF.	Fry, L. AIF.
Burke, W. N. Pte, AIF.	Fry, A. T. Lt, AIF.
Butt, H. A. Lance-Cpl, AIF.	Fry, A. W. LAC, RAAF.
Butt, R. J. Sig, AIF.	Grady, R. Cpl, RAAF.
Clifton, B. RAAF.	Halliday, H. Capt, AIF.
Conboy, J. W. RAAF.	Hansford, B. R. RAN.
Cooper, C. G. WO, RAAF.	Hansford, B. W. WO, RAAF.
Cooper, L. A-Gnr, AIF.	Hick, J. H. Lieut, AIF.
Dalton, H. LAC, RAAF.	Hooker, P. H. LAC, RAAF.
Dalton, J. Pte, AIF.	Hurley, P. R. WAG, RAAF.
Dalton, R. T. Pte, AIF.	Hurley, G. E. W. Col, OBE, AIF.
Jerram, R. G. Sgt, RAAF.	Mill, D. L. Sig, AIF.
Johns, C. V. Cpl, AIF.	Patterson, L. R. Sgt, AIF.
Kelly, R. E. AC1, RAAF.	Paynter, D. G. LAC, RAAF.
Kennedy, P. R. P.O. RAAF.	Perkins, J. Pte, AIF.
Kraemer, R. T. Pte-Sgt, RAAF.	Piterson, L. A. P.O. RAAF.
Lewis, D. LAC, RAAF.	Polson, R. H. Sgt, RAAF.
Lloyd, G. L. P.O. RAAF.	Rackham, N. Spr, AIF.
Lloyd, J. P. WO, RAAF.	Ralph, S. M. LAC, RAAF.
Lloyd, W. Lt, AIF.	Reid, J. H. Pte, AIF.
Lloyd, W. J. LAC, RAAF.	Robson, K. Pte, AIF.
Longford, E. M. Pte, AIF.	Scherger, P. R. W. Air-Commodore, RAAF, AFC, DFC.
McAlpine, J. A. Pte-Lieut, RAAF.	Staler, A. Gnr, AIF.
McArthur, J. A. Capt, AIF.	Staler, J. G. Pte, AIF.
McCready, T. Dvr, AIF.	Staler, J. L. L-Edr, AIF.
McDonald, M. RAAF.	Shalders, K. O. Lt, AIF.
McDonald, H. Pte, AIF.	Smart, R. K. AB, RAN.
McDougall, C. Spr, AIF.	Spalding, K. RAAF.
McDougall, J. C. Cpl, RAAF.	Squire, E. Sig, AIF.
McGibbony, J. O. Cpl, AIF.	Synott, L. J. Gnr, AIF.
McKay, D. Pte, AIF.	Todd, L. Sgt, RAAF.
McKay, M. Sgt, AIF.	Walker, W. J. Pte, AIF.
Meggs, A. WO, RAAF.	Welsh, E. T. Cpl, AIF.
Meggs, J. Capt, AIF.	
WOMEN IN THE SERVICES	
Horan, M. (nee Wheeler), S/W.	Scherger, J. W. ACW, WAAF.
Kraemer, Audrey, Writer, WRANS.	Reid, W. ACW, Medical Staff, WAAF.
Kraemer, Millicent J. Dvr, AWAS.	Staler, C. Nurse, AMC.
Newton, L. B. (nee Flavell), Cpl, WAAF.	Synott, B. J. Pte, AWAS.
Rackham, M. Pte, AWAS.	
The above list is provisional and by no means complete or accurate. The headmaster will be pleased to receive additions or corrections.	

Dr Norma Ruth McArthur

Born	1921
Ararat High School	1934 - 1939
Biological Statistician	



Born 12th July 1921 in Ararat Norma was always a gifted student. After leaving school she attended the University of Melbourne where she graduated with a B.A majoring in mathematics. During World War II Norma began working in wartime administration and industry as a statistical analyser. After the war she travelled to the University College London where she was awarded a PhD in Biological Statistics in 1949.

On returning to Australia in 1952 Norma took up a position as a Professional Fellow at the newly formed Australian National University in Canberra in the field of biological statistics. Norma then travelled to Fiji and the Solomon Island as the Census Commissioner. In 1974 Norma was awarded her second PhD in Pre-History, and completed work in the field using her skills of biological history and archaeology to carry out work in the Pacific Islands. A truly inspirational lady and brilliant notable ex-student of Ararat High School.

Doris Embling (nee MacInnes)

Born	1925
Ararat High School	1938 - 1943
First female Principal in Victoria	



Inspector and Assistant Regional Director of Victorian Education Department

Doris Embling has led a life that has centred on education. In 2012 her story was told in an Australia Day Pioneer Women's Ceremony where she has been described as "a leader, a ground-breaker, a pioneer".

Doris was born on a farm at Buangor and it was her mother who insisted that she, her sisters and brother, receive a good education at Ararat High School. Her father would take her into Ararat in the horse and buggy on Monday morning, she would board with a family during the week and then return home each Friday to spend weekends with her family.

After leaving school Doris began a three-year course in Home Economics and soon realised that three year trainees would be discriminated against compared to those teachers who completed a four-year course. Not to be deterred, she fought for a four year course and 'agitated' the Education Department who eventually succumbed, allowing her to complete a fourth year. To this day, Doris, now aged 87, is proud of being awarded the first Diploma of Domestic Arts which holds the distinction of 'Certificate Number One'. However the constraints continued and upon her marriage to John Howard Embling, who had also attended Ararat High School, Doris lost her permanent position (and the recent promotion). In Doris's own words 'The penalty for marriage and motherhood was that fifteen years after I joined the Education Department I was demoted to the lowest possible denominator'. Notwithstanding these barriers (and the fifteen year setback), she became the first female principal in the Victorian Education Department before being promoted to an Inspector and finally, Assistant Regional Director.

Doris is an elder stateswoman and role model for women in the teaching service. The school hall at Matthew Flinders Girls High school is named in her honour and she has been made a Life Member of Home Economics Victoria. She has been advisor to the Minister of Education in several State governments. Doris retired in the late 1980s and followed her creative interests of patchwork and embroidery. Doris presently lives in care in Geelong.

Dorothy Konig (nee Moorfoot)

Born	1924
Ararat High School	1936 - 1938
Service to the Community	



Dorothy Konig (nee Moorfoot) enjoyed her years at Ararat High School choosing the commercial stream which gave her the skills she used throughout her life both in the workplace and as an active member of the Ararat community. After leaving school she was employed in the Country Orders Department of Brown's Dry Cleaners in Melbourne. Her responsibilities included receiving clothing and boxing the cleaned clothing for return to the owners in country Victoria.

Dorothy returned to Ararat to work in the ES&A Bank, an opportunity that was not available to women until the outbreak of World War II. At the bank her arithmetic skills came to the fore. The only technology available in the bank at the time was a counting machine (no calculators or computers existed) however Dorothy and her colleagues preferred to calculate their sums mentally. The return of the men to Australia after the war signalled the end of Dorothy's position at the bank. Only one woman retained her position as a teller in Ararat and that was the Bank of NSW. She took a position at Prestige Fabrics where she was in charge of the wage department.

Growing up in George Rd (then at the edge of town) Dorothy spent time in the bush and grew to appreciate local flora and fauna. She joined the Field Naturalist Club with her mother which included excursions to different bushland settings in the area. It was through the Field Naturalists that she met her future husband who had moved to Langi Logan from Murtoa. Dorothy married and had two daughters; she and her husband owned a poultry farm until his death five years into their marriage.

After raising her daughters, Dorothy rejoined the Field Naturalist Club and discovering an interest in local history she joined the Ararat Historical Society (in which she now holds a Life Membership). As a Field Naturalist she was asked to talk to the newly formed Ararat Orchid Society which she also joined. Through the Field Naturalist Club she was encouraged by Stan Kelly, a local artist to pursue her interest in art. Starting with water colours Dorothy initially painted wildflowers but soon expanded her repertoire to include still life and landscapes. Art is an activity that she can focus her energies on and 'forget about everything else'.

Dorothy's secretarial and accounting skills have never been lost, employing them in the many club secretary and treasurer positions has held. In 2009 Dorothy's many contributions to the Ararat community were recognised when she received the Ararat Rural City Citizen of the Year Award. The church, particularly Ararat West, has been a vital part of her whole life. Although Dot has a number of health issues nowadays she is largely independent and is always ready for a chat and a laugh.

Dot's dream for the church: To have children in the church again. Dot's dream for the world: Peace and understanding between nations.

James Edmund (Jim) Banfield

Born 1925 - 2002

Ararat High School 1936 - 1941

Scientific Research, author



Jim was born in Ararat, Victoria in 1925. He attended the Ararat Grammar School and the Ararat High School. Jim was a prefect during the last year at the Ararat High School.

As he was unable to do certain subjects he did his last year at Geelong Grammar School. He studied chemistry at the University of Melbourne, graduating as one of the earlier PhDs in 1948. His PhD work, under the supervision of Professor Bill Davies, was on the synthesis of thianaphthenes. After a somewhat broadening interlude working for Johnson and Johnson and then Hardman Chemicals in Sydney, he took up an academic position in the Department of Chemistry at the University of New England (UNE), in Armidale, in 1955 and remained there until his retirement in 1985. After retirement he continued to pursue his research interests in the Department of Botany. James Edmund (Jim) Banfield died at his home in Armidale, NSW on 21 March 2002. Jim spent a period of study leave at the University Chemical Laboratory in Cambridge in 1961-1962, and a further brief period at Monash University followed by a visit to laboratories in Europe in 1980.

Jim's research interests were unusually eclectic and revealed the application of an outstanding mind and a deep understanding of chemistry. His early research was on synthetic heterocyclic chemistry, and he published a series of papers on heterocyclic derivatives of guanidines. These described the synthesis of some heavily functionalised 2H-pyrroles, pyrrolines, isoindoles and pyrimidines. However, Jim also felt that he had a national responsibility to participate in the CSIRO-driven natural products survey, which was a major scientific enterprise at the time. By a wonderful piece of serendipity, his request for a collection of the fruit of *Endiandra globosa* (alleged to be a stock poison) yielded instead the leaves of *Endiandra introrsa* (the so-called Dorrigo plum). Jim worked on the first endiandric acid while on study leave in Cambridge. There association was formed in Cambridge that later developed into a collaboration leading to the elucidation of the structures of the endiandric acids and the postulation of their biosynthesis from achiral precursors by a cascade of electrocyclic reactions, a postulate subsequently proved by the elegant Nicolaou synthesis.

Research students were in short supply at UNE, so Jim decided to do his own work. He was an experimenter all his life, but he was also convinced of the need for a textbook on theoretical aspects of organic chemistry. In 1972 he wrote and also effectively published a remarkable 690 page book entitled "An Introduction to Mathematical Organic Chemistry", which was received with some amazement and awe, because of its unconventional and uncompromisingly mathematical approach, but also with serious respect. Clearly it was not to be a best seller, but it stands as a monumental achievement. # Everything Jim did was characterised by an outstanding intellect, a totally uncompromising integrity and a delightfully endearing and perverse contempt for pomposity or sham.

Jim was an enthusiastic and accomplished cross country skier in winter and moth sailor in summer. In recent years his health was failing and his death was caused by emphysema. As a non-smoker, there are implications of chemical causes, and the finely-ground *Endiandra* samples would not have helped. Jim is survived by his devoted wife Eve and three daughters Jill, Sally and Mary and their families. His contribution to chemistry is assured and he will be remembered with great affection by his friends.

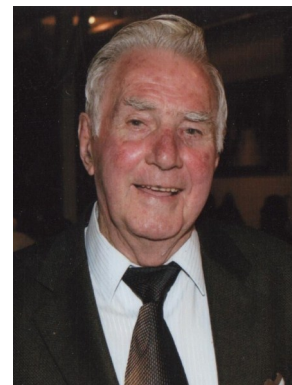
Jim was unable to find a printer to print this text book, most likely because of the many scientific symbols he used. So he purchased an offset printing machine and printed the book in his backyard shed.

David Rosengreen

Born 1927

Ararat High School 1939 - 1944

Education Officer-Ararat Prison
City Councillor and past Mayor



David attended Ararat High School during the years of the Second World War under the headmasters Mr 'Nosey' Parker and Mr Crebbins. He took the professional stream studying mathematics, English, English Literature, French, Chemistry and Physics. His broad choice of subjects proved useful when just a year later as a first year student teacher he was promoted to teach French and English at Beaufort Upper Elementary School replacing a teacher who took leave after the death of her husband in the war.

After working for 6 years as a labourer in the Ararat area David completed his teacher training in 1952 at Melbourne University. He returned to Ararat to teach at several local schools including Ararat 800, Bayindeen and Ararat West. In 1968 he was the first Education Officer to be appointed at the newly built HMS Ararat Prison, a position he held until his retirement in 1987.

David has been an active member of the Ararat community. He supported his wife who opened the Rosengreen's School of Dance in the 1950's and was a member of the Ararat City Council for 12 year and held the position of mayor in 1972/1973. David was also member of the Ararat Football Tribunal, coached the under 13's football team and was the President of the Ararat Eisteddfod Society .

Rev Stanley John Cooper

Born 1929 - 2002

Ararat High School 1941 - 1946

Missionary and Uniting Church Presbytery minister



John Cooper was born and raised in Ararat and educated at Ararat High School. After completing school he gained a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Melbourne and completed his theological studies at Ormond College in 1953. He was ordained into to Presbyterian Church in 1953.

After completing linguistics, tropical medicine and dentistry courses in Melbourne he and his wife Joan went to the New Hebrides in 1954 as a missionary and teaching adventure. In 1963 he returned to Australia where he was assistant minister at St Johns Warrnambool. John then moved to the Leigh Parish at Shelford and Inverleigh where he was minister from 1964 to 1967.

In 1967 John was appointed as district missionary in Vila New Hebrides. He was minister of the Paton Memorial Church, Member of Presbytery of Efate , joined the Onesua High School Council and served as chairman on the hospital committee of management and an advisory committee to the British and French Resident Commissioner. Returning to Australia in 1972 he was minister at Corio-Lara. In 1972 to 1977 John was moderator of the presbytery of Geelong. In 1985 John moved to Melbourne and was minister of the Croydon , Montrose, Mt Evelyn Parish. He served as a member of Synod of Victoria and the Commission for Mission executive.

Before retiring John was a minister for the Barwon region from 1990 to 1994. In 1998 John was awarded a Medal of Merit from the Republic of Vanuatu government for his achievements as a district missionary in the New Hebrides from 1954 to 1963 and 1967 to 1971. Rev Cooper is survived by his five children.

Joan Waters (nee Neylan)

Born	1928
Ararat High School	1940 - 1945
Director of Early Childhood Service	
Educational Advisor and Author	



Joan attended the Ararat High School from 1940 to 1945, serving as a Prefect in the Forms 5 and 6. In her last year at school she was the winner of the first bursary awarded by the Country Women's Association and with this, and a scholarship from the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, enabled her to train as a kindergarten teacher.

She taught in suburban Melbourne, rural Victoria and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, before becoming a Preschool Adviser in the Health Department of Victoria in 1972. When she was awarded the Vera Scantlebury Brown Travelling scholarship in 1973, she had begun post-diploma study at La Trobe University, but she transferred to the University of Pittsburgh, USA, where she completed a B.Sc.(Education). Awarded a Graduate Fellowship she enrolled in the Master's program where her focus was on two aspects of integration – of handicapped children into mainstream education, and of education into child care programs. This formed the basis of much of her later work.

Back in Victoria she was appointed Senior Pre-school Adviser. Her role became that of 'adviser to advisers', arranging monthly in-service for the departmental staff, writing a weekly bulletin, and speaking at meetings, workshops and conferences in the regions. She also initiated the *Preschool News*, a monthly leaflet for Victoria's 2,000 kindergarten teachers and caregivers. In 1981, she became Director of Early Childhood Services for the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne, a position she held for 11 years. During this time she was responsible for the oversight of the 60 kindergartens in Diocesan buildings and, as community needs changed, for the establishment of child care facilities. Teachers and management committees were supported by regular visits and annual conferences, and resource materials written and distributed widely. These publications had significant influence, not only in Anglican services, but also in the wider early childhood community.

Joan has been a member of a number of professional and community organisations contributing to the well-being of children and at various times she's held office and edited the Newsletters of most of them. These include the Australian Institute of Early Childhood Educators, the Australian Early Childhood Association, the Association for the Welfare of Children in Hospital, the National Action Against War Toys, and the World Organisation of Early Childhood Education (OMEP). During her term as Vice-President of OMEP (Asia Pacific Region) she coordinated a worldwide appeal for funds to rebuild programs for children in Indonesia and Sri Lanka after the tsunami which destroyed so many communities across the region.

Joan became Director of the Lady Gowrie Resource Centre in 1993. In this bookshop and library she continued mentoring teachers and caregivers through discussions, conference presentations and publications. For the 60th anniversary of the Centre, she wrote a history, *The Lady Gowrie Child Centre: The place, the people, the program*. Retiring from full-time work in 2000, Joan continued writing: *With Passion, Perseverance and Practicality: 100 women who influenced Australian Children's Services 1841-2001* (2002); *Their Rightful Heritage: the story of early childhood services in the Uniting Church, Victoria* (2003); *Sowing Seeds of Peace*; and *Australia and the World Organisation for Early Childhood Education* (2007) and *Changing Minds, Changing Lives: The Legacy of the Vera Scantlebury Brown Memorial Trust*(2010).

The Hon Dr Richard (Dick) De Fegely

Born 1928 - 2012

Ararat High School 1941 - 1943

Farming and Member of Victorian Parliament



During Dick's time at the High School he represented his house Chalambar and the school in athletics at the Wimmera School Sports. Competitive swimming was held in the Alexandra Lake, contending with the weed as well as the other competitors. The High School only played football and cricket against the Stawell High School, as wider participation was not possible due to petrol rationing during the Second World War. Sport was a highlight of Dick's time at School because he had grown up on a farm where there was no access to playing sport.

After leaving school Dick spent from 1947-1985 working and managing the family sheep property near Dobie. As well as his farming career, he was involved in local agricultural organizations, the Country Fire Authority (CFA) and the Chalambar Golf Club. Dick was awarded life memberships for his service to the CFA and Golf club.

In 1985 he was elected to the Victorian Legislative Council for the seat of Ballarat Province which he held until 2000. During that time, he was Opposition Whip and then Secretary of the Parliamentary Party and always represented his electorate. Dick was instrumental in sourcing funding for the Gum San Chinese Heritage Centre in Ararat. He helped to set up the sister-city relationship between Ararat and the City of Taishan in the People's Republic of China. He was awarded a Centennial Medal for his work with the development of the Gum San Museum in Ararat. From 1994 to 2006 he was a member of the Ballarat University Council. In 2006 the Ballarat University Council awarded Dick an honorary doctorate in recognition of his distinguished service to the Ballarat region and the University.

Laurence Allen (Peter) Fryar

Born 1929

Ararat High School 1941 - 1947

Dean Faculty of Human Sciences

Deputy Director Ballarat CAE (presently Ballarat University)



Peter was born at Serviceton on the South Australian border, eldest son of the local storekeeper. His father was keen for him to stay in the local town to work in the family business, however his mother insisted he obtain a secondary education and so sent Peter to live with his auntie in Ararat. Peter was Head Prefect and "loved high school" and his life in Ararat, where he also became a valuable member of the Ararat Football team.

It was during the difficult war years and Peter recalls digging bomb shelters 7 or 8 feet deep on the south side of the playing fields. He also recalls the euphoria of peace being declared and how he and his mates thought it was wonderful to join the celebrations and hug their young, good-looking female teachers when the news was announced!

After high school Peter became a student teacher at Ararat 800, then attended Ballarat Teacher's College, where he remained throughout a number of name changes. Peter became Head of the Physical Education Faculty and was Dean of the Faculty of Human Studies and Deputy Director of Ballarat College of Advanced Education.

From 1979 to 1986 Peter was President of the Australian Council for Health, Physical Education and Recreation. He was made a fellow of that organisation in 1982. There is a "Peter Fryar Award" at Ballarat University, given each year for the most outstanding student to study overseas. Peter continues to live in Ballarat and he has many fond memories and fascinating stories to tell about his time at the high school.

Ron Casey AM MBE

Born 1927 - 2000

Ararat High School 1941 - 1944

Managing Director of Channel 7



When Ron Casey retired as Managing Director of Channel 7, it ended 44 years of broadcasting with 3DB and Channel 7. During his time at Channel 7, Casey developed the station as a major producer of drama, in addition to establishing the association with the AFL, Tennis Australia, The Australian Masters Gold Tournament and the Australian Olympic Committee. He developed World Of Sport which was to run for 30 years, and TV Ringside which produced two world and four Commonwealth champions. Casey oversaw the marriage between sport and television. During his broadcasting career his international assignments included numerous world title fights and ten Olympic Games. During his time at Channel 7 he served on the Board of the Federation of Australian Commercial Television Stations, including three terms as Chairman.

In 1991, Casey was the first media 'megastar' to take the helm of an AFL club. Under his astute Chairmanship until his death in 2000, the Kangaroos became the most powerful and successful side of the 90s with the club winning flags in 1996 and 1999. He spent a lifetime broadcasting and televising sporting events from all corners of the globe but his one true sporting love was always the Kangaroos. Casey was a member of the Board of Harness Racing Victoria, Mornington Racing Club Committee, Chairman of the Victorian Boxing and Martial Arts Control Board, and a Board Member of the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation, chairing its Sports Sponsorship Committee.

In 1984 Casey was made a Member of the British Empire (MBE) for services to sports journalism, and in 1989 was made a Member Of The Order of Australia (AM) for services to sport. Many believe his greatest broadcasting moment came on radio, when in 1968 he described the world title fight between Lionel Rose and Fighting Harada in Tokyo. His most memorable interview also came from the world of boxing when during the 1960's he spoke with American legend Rocky Marciano on World of Sport.

(Ron Casey - Front row, third from right)



1943 - 1952

Horrie Crebbin had arrived as Headmaster in 1942. He was to stay for two decades. His first three years took place in a town where war was an ever present background: the rumbling military trucks moving along the highway bound for the Northern Territory, students with fathers locked away in POW camps, and letters arriving home from the front. This was also the period when Singapore fell. Many families got out in time to reach Australia. Some families finished up in Ararat.

This was a demanding time, yet a remarkable number of talented students went through the school at this time. Life was hard. With the war causing shortages, schools were feeling the pinch. Because of petrol rationing, inter school sport was curtailed and paper shortages led to suspension of the school magazine. Then came the end of the war. Mabel Gibson recalls it.

" A memorable experience during my years at A.H.S happened in 1945 in August. The school was in the middle of Term 2 exams when the news came through that the Japanese were going to surrender after Hiroshima and Nagasaki were hit by atomic bombs. My class was about to sit for a Geography exam in the morning then Cookery in the afternoon. Mr.Crebbin called a meeting in the quadrangle and announced that the Japanese had surrendered and the rest of the day was a holiday and the school was to march down to the Midland Theatre to meet with the other schools there. The local shop-keepers were out on the footpaths, applauding, as we went by. The few cars were sounding their horns, the town's church bells and the fire bell were ringing and the trains were sounding their whistles as they travelled through town. Arriving at the theatre, we were met by some of the Town Councillors and Squadron-Leader Frederick Scherger who was home on leave at the time. He was introduced to us and was invited to speak. He spoke about the war and some of the action he had seen and what it meant to everyone that the war was over. He spoke on the effects that the war had on everyone, and that we all had a lot of hard work to accomplish before everything would settle down into a lasting peace. He later became Air-Marshel Sir Frederick Scherger, Chief of the R.A.A.F."

More families settled here after the war – from Italy, Malta, Greece, Holland and other parts of Europe.

Enrolments were only just over 200 when Horrie arrived but shortly after the war, numbers were up to 269. By the late 1940s, buses were rolling in from Willaura, Moyston, Buangor, Warrak and Elmhurst. Classrooms were adequate but a new technical wing was completed in 1947, an important date in our history.

This was the era of external exams to admit students into the Leaving, Matriculation years. Courses were standard for the first two years: English, French, History, Geography, Maths, Science, Art, Craft, Cookery, Needlework and Woodwork. Students took up specialized courses in Year 3.

Frederick Albert Homburg

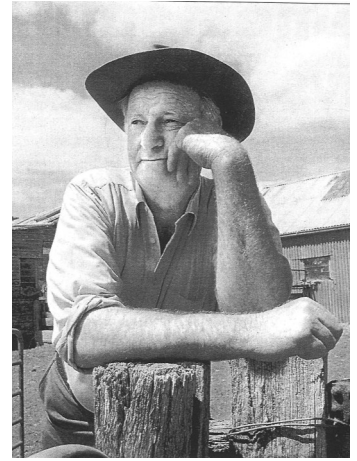
Born 1931 - 2004

Ararat High School 1943 - 1946

Poet - "Barry from the Bush" and Sportsman

Last Student to ride a horse to Ararat High School

Attended Longerenong Agricultural College 1946 - 1950



After attending College Fred headed back to the family farm at "Crosskey's" where he developed a dairy short horn stud before venturing into the exciting world of greyhound breeding where it is believed he owned the largest greyhound stud in the world. Fred had a passion for chess, promoting chess in Ararat by securing a visit from the World chess champion. He purchased a picturesque farm at Moyston which quickly became a hive of activities, a home base for many family and friends. Fred was an outstanding sportsman, in particular football and cricket. He represented Victoria in country XI playing against Australia captained by Lindsay Hassett. As a child Fred loved writing, in particular poetry. Later life saw some of his greatest achievements through his talent for public speaking and exceptional writing skills.

Fred was commissioned to write for such notable people and organisations as:

Sir Donald Bradman,
Australia Cricket Board,
Australian Olympic committee ,
VRC on behalf of Bart Cummings,
John Howard then Prime Minister of Australia,
St Kilda football Club on behalf Robert Harvey,
RSL on behalf of Bruce Ruxton featuring on Tv show "This is your Life",
Australia war memorial,
Richmond Football Club - Jack Dyer funeral Punt Road,
Trevor Barker story for St Kilda Football Club,
The Metropolitan Golf Club,
North Melbourne Grand Final Breakfast,
Carols by Candlelight,
United States Press Secretary on behalf of Bill Clinton,
Brownlow Medal Presentation,
Walter Lindrum,
The Invincibles cricket team,
Viv Richards, West Indies cricket great
Fred's last poem was for world champion jockey Scobie Beasley.

Fred had regular timeslots on five radio stations, the most recognised was the Neil Mitchell show on 3AW and the Saturday afternoon football show. Fred had a strong passion for the progress of Moyston and put Moyston on the map by making it the home of Aussie Rules. He was instrumental in the building of a monument to Thomas Wills, founder of Australian Rules Football and Moyston resident. He secured many notable Football celebrities to come to Ararat for fundraising and opening events.

Fred's legacy lives on in many ways in both Moyston and Ararat and will be published in a book to be brought out in the near future.

Russell Albert Rachinger AAM

Born 1932
Ararat High School 1943 - 1950

**Army Officer, Antarctic Expeditioner,
Economic Development Officer, Wool Grower**



1963 - 83 Australian Regular Army
1986 - 88 OIC Casey Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition
1990 - 95 Executive Officer Ararat Regional Development Board
1995 - 96 Manager Economic Development Rural City of Ararat
1958 - 06 Wool grower

Russell's leadership qualities were set free at Ararat High School when he became School Bell Boy in 1946. During his school life he was average; scholastically and sporting. He was a school prefect in his final year but the cadet unit was the further awakening of a regulated life and he was a willing participant in the first tranche of National Service where he was selected for officer training.

In 1963 he enlisted in the Australian Regular Army where he filled a number of senior appointments and served overseas in Malaysia 1974-76. He retired from the Army in 1983 but still had itchy feet and accepted the appointment of Officer-in-Charge of the 1987 Casey Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition. For his service in Antarctica he was awarded the Australian Antarctic Medal in the 1989 Queen's Birthday List.

In 1990 he was appointed Executive Officer of the Ararat Regional Development Board and between 1990 and 1995, with a band of enthusiastic volunteers, worked to reverse the economic malaise of the region. Major efforts included the re-development of the former Aradale Mental Hospital and the de-institutionalization of its residents, utilization of the J Ward property, the selection of Ararat for McDonald's and KFC restaurants, the development of viticulture in the Ararat Region, the transfer of the Visitor Information Centre to the disused Railway Station, the establishment of an early stage wool processing centre, creation of function specific festivals, and the ongoing pursuit for the extension of natural gas to the area. During his time as Manager Economic Development of the Rural City of Ararat 1995-96 this latter initiative became a reality.

His integrity, high principles, loyalty and devotion to duty is one of the reasons why he was asked to be Independent Chairperson of the Ararat Correctional Precinct Development Community Advisory Group in its early period. From 1958 until 2006, Russell has managed to produce good quality wool on properties at Langi Logan and Willaura North.

(Russell Rachinger - Back row, second from left)



Rear Admiral Neil Ralph AM, OM, DSC

Born 1932

Ararat High School 1944 - 1948

Deputy Chief Royal Australian Navy



Neil Ralph was born in Melbourne in 1932 and was one of a family of 8 children. They moved to Ararat shortly after where he spent most of his childhood catching rabbits, playing tennis and being a Boy Scout. He came from a family steeped in Military History, his father was an ANZAC and veteran of the Western Front, one brother was a POW on the Burma Railway and another was in the RAAF during WW2.

After completing High School in Ararat he joined the Bank of NSW but developed a yearning for life in Naval Aviation. In 1952 he trained as aircrew in the recently formed Fleet Air Arm of the RAN, firstly as a navigator, then as a pilot. He was a member of the first FAA jet squadron, which trained in the UK and travelled back to Australia in the then new aircraft carrier HMAS MELBOURNE in 1956. Service in FAA squadrons both ashore and in the carrier followed for several years before he was transferred to helicopter training in 1961, then followed further squadron postings.

In 1967 he was instructed to form up a new helicopter unit to be known as the RAN Helicopter Flight Vietnam. Its purpose was to train in airmobile operations and then support the infantry in Vietnam. With much help from the Australian Army, the RAAF and from the US Army, this new unit of eight pilots, 4 navigators and about 40 aircraft maintenance personnel joined the US Army's 135th Assault Helicopter Company in Vung Tau to become an integrated unit. An intense year of combat operations followed, with the 135th operating in all areas of 3 and 4 Corps, sometimes supporting the ATF, sometimes the ARVN but mostly US Army units in the Delta. This unique integrated arrangement carried on with different personnel for a further 3 years and was very beneficial to both Services.

Ralph served for two years as the Executive Officer in HMAS SYDNEY on the runs to and from Vietnam, then a 2 year spell in the UK on the staff of RN Staff College, which was a great experience. A flying appointment at Naval Air Station Nowra was next, then promotion to Captain and time as the Director of Naval Training and Captain of the destroyer HMAS TORRENS followed. In 1978 he became the first Director of the new RAN Staff College before attending the Royal College of Defence Studies in London in 1981. After a posting as Chief of Staff to the RAN Fleet Commander for 2 years it was back to Naval Air Station Nowra as Commanding Officer of the Base in 1984, right at the time when the Navy's fixed wing aircraft were being withdrawn from service. Promoted to Rear Admiral in 1985, Ralph was posted as Deputy Chief of the Navy where he served for four years before retiring in 1989.

Life in the Navy was followed by appointment as Repatriation Commissioner in 1989. He remained in the Commission for 6 years and among other things initiated action with John Printz and Professor Philip Morris to establish the National Centre for PTSD at RGH Heidelberg. He also initiated the trial for the Commission's rehabilitation program for veterans.

Retiring to life on a farm in the Nowra area in 1995, Neil Ralph maintains an interest in the RAN Naval Aviation Museum, in matters ex-service especially as the President of the Fleet Air Arm Association and proud Patron of the VVAA and also in agriculture.

Neil Ralph was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) whilst serving in South Vietnam for "exceptional devotion to duty and repeated acts of bravery." He then became a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 1985 for "services in establishing the Royal Australian Navy Staff College". Whilst serving as Deputy Chief of Naval Staff he became an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO). This award, according to Neil, came with the job. There have only ever been two naval air crew to reach Flag Rank (Admiral), and Neil is one.

Mabel Gibson (nee Klauss)

Born 1933
Ararat High School 1945 - 1950
Service to the Ararat Community

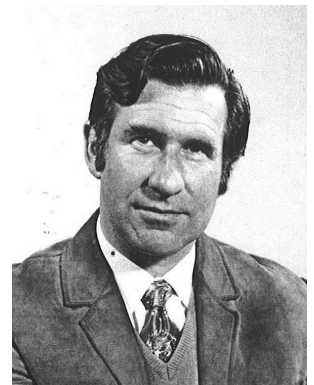


Mabel was born in Jeparit in 1933, came to Ararat at age of two with her parents and one sister, Flora - Mabel was the oldest. She spent six years at Ararat State School No. 800 and started at High School in 1945 where she topped her form for five consecutive years, being a Prefect in Form V. She also studied piano for seven years and took five exams, with passes in two and Honours in three of them. She received a Junior Scholarship in 1946. Mabel left school in early 1950, because of cost as her parents had seven other children to educate. She applied for and was successful in obtaining work at Ararat branch of the National Australia Bank. She worked there for four years until she left to get married in 1954. She married George Gibson from Crowlands and they had five children, two girls and three boys. During her time at school, most children left school at 15 years of age and in Form V there were only eight students, five girls and three boys. By Matriculation year there were only two students after Mabel left!!

After Mabel's husband, George passed away, Mabel ran the Crowlands farm, 1983 - 87. When she retired, she joined many organisations: treasurer of the Ararat Bowling Club, committee for seven years, J Ward for 20 years, Information Centre for 20 years, Jail House Rock involvement from the first held at J Ward, Bicentennial of the Golden Gateway Festival and Cemetery walks. For these, Mabel dresses up each year and makes ten posies, one for each grave visited. As well as all these organisations, Mabel has been a fund raiser and an entertainer for the elderly, Treasurer of the Grampians Country Variety Club for twenty years and the 2001 Senior Citizen of Ararat. In 2004, she was awarded the Lions' Community Service Award. Two great thrills were carrying the torch for the 2000 Olympics and carrying the Queen's baton for the 2006 Commonwealth Games. As Mabel expresses it, she loves life and she loves people. She is certainly participating fully.

Rev John H Boatman

Born 1932
Ararat High School 1945 - 1949
Minister Of Religion
Services to the Organisation—Lifeline



John was a farm boy from Crowlands who worked on the farm for 16 years after matriculating at Ararat High School. In 1960, John married the Art teacher from the High, Margaret Fischer.

In 1966, he trained for the Ministry in the Methodist Church, completing his studies in 1969. From 1970, he spent eight years in a parish in Tasmania as well as working in marriage guidance. He was a foundation Director of Lifeline (Burnie 1976 - 78).

In 1979, he was the Minister at Swan Hill for four years before returning to Lifeline as the Director in Albury/Wodonga (1982 - 1987). During his time there he was also Chairman of the Welfare Services Council. He moved to Cairns in 1987 with Lifeline for nine years. Here he was crowned King 'Fun in the Sun' in 1990. John's key role in his Lifeline work involved the training of telephone counsellors—about 2000 of them. John also during his years living in Tasmania and Victoria worked as an honorary Probation Officer.

Although 'retired' since 1996, John has worked in the field of Juvenile justice and is now Associate Minister in Blackburn.

Mary Lewis OAM (nee Neylan)

Born 1933
Ararat High School 1945 -1950
Director of Nursing Geelong Hospital
Local Government Ombudsman



Mary Lewis, the youngest child of Elwyn & Norman Neylan, was born in Ararat. Norman Neylan served one term as Mayor of the Town of Ararat and another term as Mayor of the City of Ararat. He was also a former Woodwork teacher at the Ararat High School, 1950- 1965.

After she attended the Ararat High School she trained as a nurse at the Ararat & District Hospital and completed Midwifery at the Queen Victoria Hospital in 1955. Mary married the late Jack Lewis on the 5 May 1956 and with their two children, Jane and David, spent 15 years on the family property at "Honordale" Buangor. She holds a Bachelor of Nursing and a Graduate Diploma in Professional Writing from Deakin University and a Diploma in Nursing from the College of Nursing, Australia. She is a Fellow of the College of Nursing, Australia.

After serving as Sister in Charge of Baxter House from 1979 to 1981 Mary was appointed Deputy Director of Nursing of The Geelong Hospital. In 1989 she was appointed Director of Nursing at The Geelong Hospital until she retired in 1997. Mary and the Nursing Department worked hard to strengthen the relationship with Deakin University which led to the appointment of a Professor of Nursing at The Geelong Hospital in 1996. Mary was also a Surveyor with the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards for many years, completing 15 surveys in all states of Australia. She has travelled to the USA, Israel and China for hospital study tours, and to attend conferences where she delivered papers on various aspects of nursing in Australia.

Mary was the first woman to be invited to join the Rotary Club of Geelong in 1992 and in 1998 she travelled to Tonga as a member of a team involved in the reproofing of the hospital. She was elected as the first woman President of the Geelong Rotary Club in 2001 and was named a Paul Harris Fellow for Rotary in 2004.

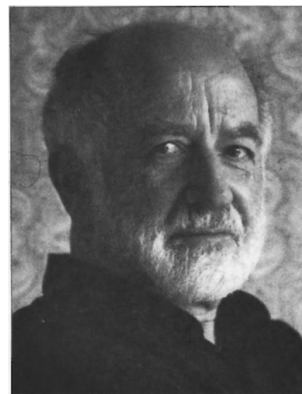
The City of Greater Geelong appointed Mary as its first Ombudsman in 1999. This appointment was the first time an Ombudsman had been appointed by Local Government in Victoria. She retired from that position in 2007, although she has been called back by council as a consultant on a number of occasions. Mary has served on the Board of the Geelong Hospice Association for 15 years, and for many years presented programs on The Pulse, 94.7, the Geelong Community radio station. She is also a Dame of Justice of the Sovereign Order of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller. Mary has held many positions open to a lay person at All Saints' Anglican Church in Newtown, Geelong and volunteers at the Christ Church Meals Program. Mary is a member and former Board member of the Australian Decorative Fine Arts Society (ADFAS), Geelong, and was the Coordinator of the ADFAS church recording project at All Saints' in Geelong. She is President of the Geelong Art Society and a Board member of the Anam Cara Foundation, a respite and hospice service.

Her publications include the book, *Baxter and Before, A History of Maternity Services at the Geelong Hospital*, (Deakin University Press 1996), and *Going Home* a One Act play, which is a portrayal of attitudes about ageing. (1996). In 2008 Mary co-authored *From Jerusalem to Geelong – The Vitality of a Commandery*, which is the history of the Geelong Commandery of the Sovereign Order of St John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller.

On the 14 June 2010 Mary was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM), for service to the Geelong Community in the Queen's Birthday Honours list. Mary's husband Jack died on 4 November 2012.

Maurice Weidmann

Born	1936 - 2001
Ararat High School	1948 - 1954
PhD Biochemistry	
Academic	



Maurice was born in Ararat on November 1, 1936 and grew up and lived in Elmhurst on his parents' farm. On finishing his studies at Ararat High School, Maurice left Ararat and began his tertiary education at the University of Melbourne. Maurice had grown up with a love of nature and how things worked and this was reflected in his degree, firstly studying Agricultural Science. After graduating with his bachelor degree Maurice began working on his PhD in Biochemistry at the same university. After completing his doctoral thesis Maurice continued studying overseas in Oxford and Munich under such names as Sir Hans Krebs (Nobel Prize in Physiology Winner) and Professor Martin Klingenberg. On returning to Australia Maurice took up a position at the Australian National University where he was able to work on his passion in metabolic regulation. It was this passion that saw Maurice begin to work with elite athletes and exercise physiologists at the Australian Institute of Sport to increase the immune system in athletes.

Maurice worked at the Australian National University for 23 years, where he was renowned as an excellent teacher. After retiring he was able to spend time following his other passion, photography which saw him travel much of the world. He was a gifted photographer and received the Photographer of the Year award by the ACT Photographic Society on a number of occasions.

Alan Robinson

Born	1937
Ararat High School	1950 - 1955
Principal of Ballarat High School	1987 - 1998



Alan commenced High School in 1950 after attending Ararat Primary School No. 800. He was first in Form 1C at the end of 1950. In 1951 and 1952 he won the Champion Athlete Sash for his year level. He was not defeated over the 100 and 200 yard sprints during his 6 years at school. He represented the School in the firsts cricket and football teams. In 1955 the School presented "Operation Handclasp" to the community then Alan played the part of Jack Pincher in the one act play, "The Crimson Coconut". Alan was made a Prefect in 1954 and was Head Prefect with Edith Perkins in 1955.

After passing his Matriculation Alan accepted a Teaching Studentship and went on to complete a Commerce Degree and a Diploma of Education at Melbourne University. In later years he completed a Graduate Diploma of Educational Administration at Deakin University. His first teaching appointment in 1960 was to Alexandra High and this was followed by promotions to Bacchus Marsh, Hamilton, Stawell and Ballarat. At Ballarat High he was Deputy Principal from 1977 until he became Principal in 1987 and he remained in this position until his retirement at the end of 1998.

During his 12 years as Principal at Ballarat High Alan guided the School through considerable educational changes and building development. Following his retirement, in recognition of his services to the school, the new Performing Arts and Home Economics building was named "The Robinson Centre".

Pam Gullifer OA (nee Matthews)

Born	1937 - 1995
Ararat High School	1948 - 1950
Inaugural Director of Ararat Gallery	
Inaugural Director of Ararat Gallery	1973 - 1977
Director of galleries.	1977 - 1995
Member of the Order of Australia	1995



Pam was born to Dr and Mrs Ian Matthews, married Norman Gullifer in 1960 and had two children. After working in a voluntary role with the Ararat Gallery, she was appointed as director. By 1974, Ararat held the Clifton Pugh exhibition; in 1975, she set up a permanent collection: Wool and Fibre. Pam moved to The Rocks, Sydney in 1977 where she set up the Gallery for the Crafts. She spent 1980 - 84 as Director of the Geelong Art Gallery before establishing her own Art Gallery in Richmond. 1989 saw her as Director of the Exhibitions Gallery, Wangaratta before going to the Benalla Gallery 1990 – 95.

In 1998, Sarah Schmidt, Director of Ararat Gallery, put together an exhibition to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Gallery. It consisted of art work acquired for her galleries by Pam during her career: appropriately named Gullifer's Travail.

Brian Leslie Rickard PSM MAIES

Born	1938
Ararat High School	1950 - 1953
Regional Manager, Victoria State Emergency Service	
Queen Scout,	
Volunteer Fireman	(27 years)
Volunteer Ambulance Driver	(15 years)



Brian commenced his working life with Clover's Hardware in Ararat where he eventually went on to establish and manage a Branch store at Stawell. After five years in Stawell, he was promoted back to Ararat.

He started the Ararat Rescue Squad in 1966 (later to become Vic SES) and was its leader until 1976. He was appointed to the staff of VICSES in 1976, based at Ballarat, and was the longest serving Regional Officer, Director, Manager, serving 27 years, retiring in 2003. He was awarded the Public Service Medal, National Medal with 3 bars, (45 years service) and SES Long Service Medal (45 years).

Brian was instrumental in the formation of ten SES units throughout the state. He was involved in the development of the road Accident Rescue Training manual and conducted courses throughout Victoria. He was also involved in the Development of National training Manuals. Completed a Disaster Services Administration Certificate at the National Emergency Services College and was sent to N.Z. to study the affects of the Mt Ruapehu Volcanic Eruption on the community and how the Emergency Services and the community coped. Brian was commended by the Royal Humane Society of Australia for his part in a mine tragedy at Mafeking. He played a leading role as Emergency Relief and Supply Co-ordinator at many fire disasters including Streatham, Mt Macedon, (Ash Wednesday) Maryborough, Greendale as well as a major role in numerous Flood Operations. He also played a major role in many Search and Rescue Operations, particularly in the Grampians and the Lerderderg Gorge.

Brian was appointed Honorary SES Museum Curator and service Historian and has established an SES Museum at Craigieburn, after collecting Civil Defence and SES Memorabilia over many years. Brian was the Founding President of the Ballarat Bushwalking and Outdoors Club and was a Bushwalks Leader for the Victorian National Parks Association for 25 years. He was made a Life Member of the Central Highlands Community Roadsafety Council after 23 years of Service. Since retiring he has been making lots of sawdust in his workshop and at the Ballarat Woodworkers' Guild.



1953 - 1962

With migration and the post war baby boom, numbers of students had risen to 413 by 1954. This led to two problems: lack of staff and buildings. Prefabricated buildings and a remodelled Quadrangle accounted for the building shortage. Staffing was also solved. As teacher training had been suspended during the war, primary teachers and people with university degrees came in so that by 1959, the staff photo shows a healthy 25 staff members.

The big project, however, was to build a memorial to those who had fought in the two world wars and those who had died at war. The school had no indoor centre for assemblies and Mr Crebbin felt the Hall would be a fitting memorial. With the support of the school community, a gift of 5000 pounds from the Victorian Government, curtain material donated by Prestige and a major fundraiser in the district, the Hall was built and opened in 1960 by the Premier, Mr Bolte. This building still stands and is now used as the school library.

Horrie Crebbin retired at the end of 1962 after 20 years of dedicated and successful leadership. Student numbers had grown steadily with 492 pupils by 1958, and 626 by 1963.

(photos of students - circa 1955)



Les Gason

Born 1941
Ararat High School 1953 - 1955
Local Businessman and Manufacturer



Reflecting on his three years in Secondary education at Ararat High, Les says there were undoubtedly some excellent teachers, an iron fisted Principal and many really great mates, which would normally make for a top student.

However Les' mind was in fact occupied with the ill health of his mother, who passed away during this time. Then there was the sudden death of his grandmother three months later, she having moved to Ararat to look after himself and his two younger sisters. Les recalls he was also often in trouble for not wearing the school uniform because his parents could not afford a second jumper.

He did win a pie eating competition while there, but well and truly got off side with a teacher who one day said "We won't be doing much this afternoon", being the end of the year, whereupon Les walked out of the class room to go to his new home to mix cement for the driveway instead. Leaving school at 14 was not necessarily good for him. Yet at only 16, when his father had to take a health break of six weeks, he was left in charge of a small team of five men. He soon learnt "the customer was number one" and "you can't sacrifice quality for price".

That period led to an everlasting bond with his father, Frank, who with an ever expanding quality supportive staff led "Gason of Ararat" to become a world leader in roll over protective tractor cabins, with integrated air conditioning. They have since developed the very broad range of Gason farm machinery, CGE mowers, Eureka and Jindara wood and gas heaters, along with supplying a wide range of customers with sub contract work.

His wife Barbara of just on 50 years also attended Ararat High School, and even in the same class as Les. She has always been a stabilizing and encouraging force behind the scenes. Les had the privilege to serve in the community in many ways (e.g. the West primary School Council, the Hospital Board, Ararat & Wimmera Swimming Club, various church and other Christian committees, to name a few). Serving on the Powercor Board was another great learning experience for Les.

"I am also very conscious of what has for me been God's leadership in my life and am very grateful to Him."

There is no doubt in his mind of the importance of secondary education, however he is also very aware that there are a number of people like himself who, for various reasons leave school at what would be seem to be too early, and yet succeed in their chosen careers, making a worthwhile contribution to what is a great community and country.

Having travelled abroad in business and for pleasure, he doesn't see any better place to live than Ararat, and says he is indeed very fortunate and privileged to live in such a country.

Graham Burke

Born 1941
Ararat High School 1953 - 1959
Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director Village Roadshow
Founding Director of 2Day FM
Original Commissioner -Australian Film Commission



Graham Burke started work at the Town Hall Pictures at Ararat while attending Ararat High School. He won a studentship to Melbourne University where he commenced an Arts Degree but after six months quit to pursue full time his great passion - the theatres and motion pictures. Mentored by Mr Roc Kirby, the legendary great showman and Founder of Village Roadshow, Graham soon became his most senior executive. In this capacity Graham started Roadshow Distributors which is today the biggest film distributor in Australia with a turnover of some \$500m. Graham was instrumental in starting Warner Bros Movie World on the Gold Coast and this led to the company under his leadership as Managing Director acquiring Sea World, Wet 'n Wild and becoming the biggest theme park operator in Australia. The company now has theme parks in America and is building one in China. Village Roadshow then went on to become a co-producer of major motion pictures and has produced some 75 films including MATRIX, HAPPY FEET, CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY, I AM LEGEND and OCEANS ELEVEN. In addition, the company produces films in Australia and these have included MAD MAX and more recently RED DOG. Graham is married and has two daughters – Lisa Burke and Inge Burke.

(Graham Burke - third right, back row)

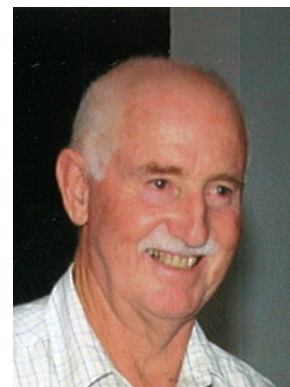


Ian Robert Foster

Born 1941
Ararat High School 1954 - 1957

Local Businessman

Ararat Rural City Citizen of the Year 2011

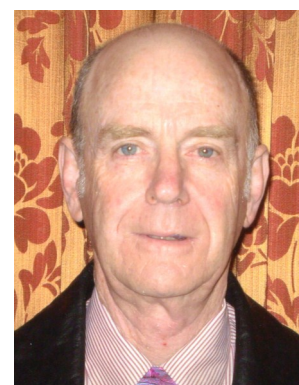


At school, Ian was a prominent sportsman, especially in football and tennis (represented the school at Stawell and Hamilton). In 1958, he joined the staff of Fosters Mensland as a third generation employee. He worked there for 43 years, as manager for many years. He retired in 2001.

Ian is well known for his community involvement and readiness to help people, especially house painting and wood cutting. He is a Life Governor of the Hospital, having spent 19 years on the board. He was long a member of St John's Ambulance, District Treasurer of the Scouts and on numerous committees of the Uniting Church (still involved). In his retirement he is still very active as Chairperson of Landcare and President of Pinnacle which supports people with disabilities. In 2011, Ian was appointed Ararat Citizen of the Year. Ian has also been well known for his prowess in Badminton, Football with the Methodist Football Club, Squash and Tennis, winning a premiership as recently as 1989. Ian is a keen traveller, both overseas, and 4wheel drive trips around Australia.

Kevin Blachford

Born 1942
Ararat High School 1955 - 1962
Victorian Education Curriculum Development and Author
Ararat High School Dux 1962



Kevin Blachford graduated with Honours in Geography, History, French and English Literature at the State Matriculation Examinations. He completed a Bachelor degree in Arts and a later a Postgraduate Bachelor Degree in Education with Honours in Adolescent Psychology, Social Psychology, and Philosophy of Education. In 1965 Kevin accepted his first teaching post at Mirboo North High School. He made his mark as a teacher from the beginning ensuring that by 1968 there was a 100% pass rate in Matriculation Geography with 83% of the students achieving first class honours! Kevin's teaching methods encouraged students to actively participate in critical thinking through interactive group work and fieldwork. In 1968 Kevin was invited to join the Curriculum and Research Branch of the Education Department in Melbourne where he was responsible for re-structuring the geography curriculum for secondary schools across Victoria. In 1969 Kevin wrote the first of what would be over 200 journal articles and sixteen books. In 1972 Kevin's work in curriculum development, implementation & evaluation of geography was being increasingly recognised in Australia, UK and North America. He was sought by several universities as a lecturer but in 1975, he was awarded a Fellowship for Advanced Study which enabled him to pursue a doctoral course at The University of Colorado and later completed a PhD thesis at Monash University.

Kevin returned to the Ministry of Education in Victoria in 1976 continuing his work in curriculum development, evaluation and administration before going to the Hawthorn Institute of Education in 1983. After a short time as Head of Curriculum, he was appointed Associate Director and also the inaugural Head of the Department of Vocational Education and Training of The University of Melbourne. Kevin's work in education and interest in organisational transformation took him to Hong Kong in 1995 where he worked for two tertiary institutions. In 2003, he accepted a position on the Deakin University Human Ethics Research Committee.

In retirement Kevin continues to read and write intensively in philosophy, the history of ideas, psychology, and neuroscience. He and wife, Lili, are avid travellers and have been to more than 60 countries.

Raymond Douglas Spencer

Born 1942
Ararat High School 1955 - 1960

Forest Scientist, Land-use Planner, Academic

1963	Dip For (Creswick), Dux of School	1964 - 1972	Forester
1967	BScF Hon (Melb)	1972 - 1973	Project Planner
1972	MScF (Melb)	1973 - 1980	Land use Planner
1977	MSc Planning (Reading, UK)	1980 - 1997	University Academic
1997	DrForSc (Melb)	1997 - 2002	Forestry Policy Adviser



Encouraged by a caring Headmaster, great teachers (especially Mrs Crebbin), and help from a Rotary scholarship, Ray matriculated in science and maths in 1960, having enjoyed football, tennis and school-yard cricket; organising the sale of 'hot dogs' from 'Siberia' to install bike racks; and 'grassing' the gravel oval. Inspired with art, but loving the outdoors, he accepted a scholarship at the Victorian School of Forestry, Creswick, in 1961 and graduated Dux of the School in 1963 with a Diploma of Forestry. Further studies and research led to Bachelor and Higher degrees in forest science and planning, culminating with MScF and DrForSc (Melb) and MSc Regional and Urban Planning (Reading, UK). This broad training led to many multidisciplinary leadership roles starting as a field forester in Victoria (1964-1972) where he developed forest inventory skills using aerial photographs, followed by Project Planning (1972-73) for environmental research, Land use Planning (1973-80) for Victoria's coastal and inland regions, Teaching and Research in Forest Science at Melbourne University (1980-1997), and Leader of multidisciplinary research for national forest policy in Canberra (1997-2002). His research in aerial photography led to enhanced methods for monitoring forests, an international profile, papers in leading scientific journals, and opportunities to visit and work in some of the world's great forests as a visiting scientist in the UK, Canada, USA, New Zealand, Malaysia, Brazil and Australia. Ray retired in 2002 and lives on a rural lifestyle property near Creswick with his wife Barbara. They have three sons and six grand children.

Leslie John Ralph

Born 1945
Ararat High School 1958 - 1962

Athlete



Les Ralph represented Ararat High school in Athletics yet in his final school year he was beaten by a metre in the 100, 200 and 400 by a certain Ted Robinson! After leaving school he took on a career as a Clerk with the Victorian Railways in Ararat for 30 years, until the depot closed down. He then commenced work with the Ararat Rural City Council in 1995. He still operates the Street Sweeper with the Council. Les took up professional foot running, with his main aim to win the traditional Stawell Gift. He competed in 24 consecutive Stawell meetings from 1965 until 1988. During this period he had over 110 sprint starts, winning some 39 heats, semis or finals. All up he ran in 10 finals at Stawell. Les ran in 3 Stawell Gift finals (1969, 1972 & 1973) two as the ultimate back marker. In 1969, both his trainer Jim Pearce and Les ran off in the final, finishing 3rd and 5th. At the same meeting he won the 100 metres.

Away from running Les was the local Cub leader for some 5 years – after that he occupied the position of District Commissioner for the Scout Association for a further 6 years. For the last 20 years Les has been an active member of the Ararat Cemetery Trust – the last five years as Treasurer.

Kevin Fitzgerald

Born 1942

Ararat High School 1955 - 1960

Computer Programmer and Consultant



Kevin spent his first 18 years in Ararat. He loved school, sports and his “gym”, the bush. Many great teachers lifted his aspirations to university and secondary teaching. “I wanted to be a bank teller before they influenced me!” Kevin studied Commerce at Melbourne University.

He commenced teaching at Ballarat East in 1965, then Leongatha in 1966 and Footscray Institute of Technology 1967, teaching statistics and accounting. He established FIT’s Computer Centre in 1969 and taught computer programming and systems design. In 1975 he completed his Masters of Commerce and moved on to Caulfield Institute teaching computing to the accounting students and business to the computing students. He also researched computer related crime. During this time he was also heavily involved in middle distance running.

Kevin started his own Information Security practice in 1980 and this has been his life ever since. He also worked with KPMG 1994-2002 and worked with the UN for five years which he considers a highlight. His work has taken him to New York, Geneva, Paris, London, California, Canada, Africa, South America, Cuba – “it’s a wonderful world.” He also edited International Information Security Journal for 26 years retiring in 2007.

Kevin is still working in his own business, Fitzgerald InfoSec. He has four children and two grandchildren (so far). Kevin has been married to Penny since 1993 and lives in Bentleigh East and Mansfield growing furniture trees to make up for all those he felled in his teenage years working as a junior timber cutter. After 25 years in athletics now it’s snow and water skiing, yoga, meditation, theatre, music, piano, writing and walking the dogs at sunrise.

Neil Maxwell Faneco

Born 1943

Ararat High School 1956 - 1959

International Livestock Exports

Farm hand, Herd Tester, Dairy Farmer 1959 - 1970

Established cattle AI business 1970

Managed beef cattle feedlot 1972 - 1981

Export Manager Fares Group 1981 - 1982

International livestock career 1983 - 2003



Neil left Ararat High School after year 10 to work on a dairy farm at Leongatha, then Herd Tester and share farmer at Toora, before returning to Ararat to establish his own dairy farm. After studying cattle feedlots in the USA and qualifying Technician for artificial insemination (AI), he established the first private breeding centre in Victoria from which he was ‘head hunted’ to help design, establish, and manage the first cattle feedlot in Australia, with a capacity of 10,000 cattle and 40,000 lambs. Short-listed for a Churchill Fellowship, he became Export Manager based in Adelaide responsible for shipping and development of receiving centres for sheep in Fujairah, UAE; Suez, Ismailia and Alexandria in Egypt; Los Mochis in Mexico; Constanta in Romania and Varna in Bulgaria. When the company initiated trade with Communist countries he sourced thousands of cattle from across the Eastern Bloc for shipment to the Middle East where he organised their discharge, management and marketing. He subsequently became an Adviser to breeding projects in Mexico, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay and managed the first designs and construction of loading, discharge, feeding and watering systems for converting cargo ships for long-distance export of cattle from Australia. Now retired, he lives in Mosman, Perth, with his wife Loretta.

Gwenda Allgood (nee Buckingham)

Born 1944
Ararat High School 1956 - 1957
Local Businesswoman and City Councillor



Gwenda was born in Rutherglen and arrived in Warrak (Ararat) in 1953 with her parents who were running the family farm. Her ancestors originally settled in the Ararat area at Mount Cole in 1860 and were employed at the sawmill. They were instrumental in planting apple trees in Mount Cole across the road from the cemetery. She is the fifth generation living in the Ararat area.

Gwenda has served 31 years in Local Government and was elected to the Ararat City Council on August 4th 1982 at her first attempt. She has served five terms as Mayor of the City, five terms as Deputy Mayor and she became a Justice of the Peace in August 1994. During her term on Council Gwenda has made a number of trips to China, recently leading a delegation striving to export local wines into Ararat's Sister City Taishan. Gwenda's father told her that her interest in politics could have come from her grandmother who was always interested in politics but naturally was not encouraged to be involved in a man's world in the early 1900s.

Awards received are a Certificate of Outstanding Service and Mayor Emeritus from the Municipal Association of Victoria, a 20 year Certificate for Outstanding Service and a 25 year certificate from the Municipal Association of Victoria. Gwenda has received awards from the Ararat Rotary Club and the Ararat Regional Business Association. Gwenda received Ararat awards for being a driving force behind a number of successful fundraising committees over the years. She is a Life Member of the Ararat Combined Netball Association and Ararat Show Society, President of the Green Hill Lake Development Board, Ambulance Auxiliary and is a staunch supporter of wind farm technology. Gwenda married Morris Allgood (who also attended Ararat High School) in 1965 and they have 3 children who all attended the Ararat High School. They have ten Grandchildren at present all living in Ararat. Four of her Grand children attend the Ararat Secondary College.

Andrew Wigan

Born 1950
Ararat High School 1962 - 1968
Winemaker



Andrew attended Ararat High School from 1962-1968. He failed Leaving English which was a 'bit of a bummer' so he completed a 7th year which 'doesn't seem to have harmed him' and he has many fond memories of his days at Ararat High, particularly the school swimming carnivals. Andrew went from Ararat High to the School of Mines in Ballarat where he graduated with a degree in Applied Chemistry and then on to Roseworthy Agricultural College in South Australia where he studied winemaking.

Andrew 'Wig' made his first wine in 1972. In 1976 he became Assistant Winemaker at Saltram in the Barossa Valley and in 1979 he joined Peter Lehmann to build what is now one of Australia's leading wine brands, Peter Lehmann Wines. His accolades include the Gourmet Traveller WINE Magazine's Winemaker of the Year in 2009, the White Winemaker of the Year at the International Wine Challenge in 2006 and the International Wine and Spirit Competition's International Winemaker of the Year in 2003 and 2006.

Wig is credited with creating the Barossa's white wine revolution with his award winning Riesling and Semillon. He and his wife Wendy regularly visit family and friends in Ararat and enjoy a round of golf and glass of riesling with local friends!

Professor Berni Einoder AM

Born (Austria) **1944**
Ararat High School **1958 - 1961**
Orthopaedic Surgeon and Teacher



In 1958 Berni started at the Ararat High School (in grade 9) and completed year 12 in 1961, as top of the science subjects and Dux of the school. He was granted a scholarship to study medicine at Monash University.

He graduated at Monash University, MBBS Honours in 1967. After 2 years residency at the Alfred Hospital in Melbourne he spent one year in General Practice. This included working in the Pacific Islands where he became acutely aware that he needed more surgical skills. He did his surgical post graduate studies working at the Northern and Austin Hospitals and received the FRACS in 1973, then went to St.Vincent's in Melbourne and Launceston General in Tasmania (1975). Berni did post graduate fellowships in England (arthroscopy), Vienna (osteotomy), Graz (AO internal fixation) and Ljubljana (leg lengthening and external fixation techniques). He and his family enjoyed their time in Tasmania and as a result they settled in Launceston to work in both the private and public hospitals. This allowed him to perform the recently developed arthroscopic surgery. Because of his interest in treating sporting injuries Berni was the prime mover in starting the sports medicine lectures; including courses for the sports trainers, coaches and ski patrol.

In 1984 Berni was elected Chairman of the Medical staff at the LGH. This gave him a seat on the Board and the opportunity to improve the input of the medical staff to the board members and hence make many changes at the hospital. In 1986 Berni was appointed the director of Surgery with the responsibility to ensure that all disciplines are covered 24 hours per day and that the standard of care was ahead of the accepted "best practice".

With the help from Prof. Rob Fassett, David Lees and Alan Scott, Berni managed to convince the accreditation team not to close the small UTAS Medical School which is so important to ensure they get quality junior doctors taking the jobs in local hospitals. The surgeon's enthusiastic participation in the teaching medical students, interns, residents and trainee surgeons is rewarded by the large proportion of trainees returning to join the staff when they have completed their studies. With the help of our skilled anaesthetists, nurses and allied health staff the surgeons provide a world class surgical service to our community.

Since then he has been on many national and international executive committees including; the Victorian Board of Studies, Australian Orthopaedic Association, International Arthroscopy and Knee Surgeons Association, Editorial Board of the English JBJS, International Ski Safety Committee, Aust. Sports Medicine Association, Tasmanian Horse Racing Board, Ski Patrol etc. In 1997 in addition to all his chores he was also the CEO of the LGH. During the two years he radically changed the hospital administration and included the senior clinicians on the hospital executive. Berni was awarded the Australian Orthopaedic Association Medal in 2005, the Order of Australia Medal in 2006, and life memberships with AOA, Aust. Knee Society, Aust. Arthroplasty Society, the North Launceston Football Club and the Ben Lomond Ski patrol. In his spare time he plants trees (Northern Tasmanian tree farmer of the year in 1987), farms cattle, deer, crops and potters about in a 7 acre garden.

Berni enjoys the company of his extended family which includes three sons and two daughters and six grandchildren (to date), who frequently accompany him and Anna on his snow skiing holidays.

Professor Greg McRae

Born 1948
Ararat High School 1960 - 1965

Professor of Chemical Engineering Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Executive Director of Morgan Stanley in New York

Bachelor of Engineering Monash University
PhD in Engineering from Caltech



Greg showed his aptitude for science very early. In 1963, he won a prize in the annual Science Talent Quest by building his own geiger-counter and the following year won top prize in the Victorian Science Talent Quest with his solar energy device. He was later awarded one of two Victorian Scholarships for summer school at Sydney University. Greg was School captain in 1965.

Professor Gregory McRae is the Hoyt C. Hottel Professor of Chemical Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and an Executive Director of Morgan Stanley in New York. He joined MIT from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. Professor McRae has led research into ways of reducing the adverse effects of chemicals in the environment. His work has helped us all by developing cost effective emission control systems. Greg has also used computing techniques to design molecules that help avoid environmental pollution in the first place.

Greg has also served on several prestigious U.S. government committees, such as the Environmental Protection Agency and the Panel on Destruction of Chemical Warfare Agents. He has received many awards for his work in computational science, policy analysis and process engineering including the prestigious Presidential Young Investigator Award; has authored numerous articles on air quality issues, chemical kinetics and process engineering; and has been on the editorial board of five technical journals.

As an eminent expatriate Australian, Professor McRae has maintained his commitment to his home country over the past two decades through the university, government and innovation sectors. For example, in the three years 2007–2009, he was a member of the US delegation to the Australian–American Leadership Dialogue meetings in Australia, aimed at building working relations at senior levels between the two countries. Additionally, across the years, he has organised and often hosted many senior delegations of UQ executive members. For the past eight years, Professor McRae has been a source of strategic support to UQ senior executive and research staff in planning and developing funding proposals and outreach programs related to high-performance computing and modelling.

Ken Latta

Born 1950
Ararat High School 1962 - 1966
Chairman of Harness Racing Victoria



Ken Latta is chairman of Harness Racing Victoria, being appointed in 2010 and in April 2013, reappointed for a further three year term. He has had a long distinguished career in the public sector, primarily in senior TAFE education and the emergency services. He has held the positions of CEO of the Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board, Executive Director Victoria Police and member of the Council of Victoria University.

His accolades include an Honorary Doctorate of Victoria University awarded in 2010, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the vocational education sector and for his advocacy on behalf of the western region of Melbourne, in particular his role in the development of Victoria University .

John Cavanagh

Born 1946
Ararat High School 1958 - 1962
Nursing Educator



John came from England as a three year old. He was not a brilliant student during his five years at Ararat High School (Mrs Crebbin is remembered for her comment that if John Cavanagh could pass French anyone can). He was more committed to work on the farm, fun, pipe band trips and sport than he was to serious study, during his teenage years.

After a short time as a Trainee telephone technician (with the PMG Dept) he commenced a career in Nursing, which included education and administration over more than thirty-five years. After training as a Psychiatric Nurse at Aradale, (graduating in 1968) John accepted a promotion to Traralgon sport where he was in soon charge of the new acute unit at the psychiatric hospital. During the four years in Latrobe Valley, John completed his General nursing, excelling in theoretical and practical work (gaining distinctions in exams and awards at Graduation). In 1974, John was appointed to the position of Senior Nurse Educator at Aradale so he returned with his wife and daughters to their home in Ararat. He completed a Diploma in Nurse Education in 1976 (again with High Distinctions) and was admitted as a fellow of the College of Nursing Australia. With his staff, he developed the Aradale school of nursing as it became one of the foremost in Victoria. A new school was built and many local and region students attribute their training and future widespread careers to John's capable and caring leadership as he taught them and helped implement psychiatric nurse training across Victoria.

Along with his dedication to his local hospital, John served for ten years as the Chairperson of the Victorian Nursing Council Psychiatric Examination Board and as Chairperson for some years of the Training Advisory Committee to the Victorian Nursing Council. With the change of nurse training from hospitals to universities and also the closure of J Ward for the Criminally Insane, John was not persuaded to lecture at universities and was eventually appointed to manage the opening and running of the Forensic Nursing Centre within the grounds of Aradale, while contributing to the development of University Nursing programmes as the Hospital schools closed. During the years as manager of the Ararat Forensic Psychiatric Unit, he wrote the original Forensic Nursing Curriculum and presented papers at National Conferences on the development of this new concept being developed in Ararat. When Aradale and then the Ararat Forensic unit closed John decided on early retirement from his nursing career, so is able to devote more time to his other interests and commitments.

His long term love of farming and playing bagpipe music keeps him happily busy as does his family John learned to play bagpipes under the leadership of Tom Porteous and was a member of the Ararat Men's Pipe Band which came 3rd in the Inaugural Australian Pipe Band competitions in 1960 when he was 13 years old. After being a member of the City of Ararat Pipe band (founded by the remaining members of the Ladies Pipe Band and the Mens Pipe Band) John then played with the University of Ballarat *pipe* band which won the Grade 4 section of the Australian Championship in 2012. John now plays socially with Horsham Pipe band. His piping ability saw him pipe for many years for Highland dancing competitions across Victoria including for the Victorian dancing Championships. He is still the lone piper at weddings, funerals and ceremonies including Anzac day services — including from the Town Hall clock tower at dawn. He also finds time for International travel. John, his wife and their six daughters each attended the school (known to them by various names) They have many memories of their times *there* from 1958 onwards and John is still regular supporter of the work of Chaplaincy. While John describes himself as an unremarkable student, he left the Ararat High School with the ability and desire to do his best. Fifty years after he left school, his family and friends acknowledge his stickability, enthusiasm and hard work in everything he has done and he carries fond memories which include strict discipline by a much respected Mr Crebbin, encouragement in many ways by Mr Jack Thomas and other staff and fun times with friends.

Ian Douglas Tucker

Born	1946
Ararat High School	1958 - 1960
General Manager Western Region Prisons.	
Victorian Prison Service	1972 - 1999



Ian commenced his education at Crowlands Primary school then attended Ararat High School in 1958 leaving on his 14th birthday in 1960. For several years he worked on the family farm and travelled throughout the east coast of Australia shearing. He described these years as his “informative learning period” where he had the good fortune to meet and learn from a vast cross section of working Australians.

In 1972 Ian joined the Victorian Prison Service, working throughout HM Prison Pentridge and several prisons in Victoria. Later as a result of these experiences he served in management positions in Divisional Investigations, the Emergency Response Group and the Staff Training College. During his service Ian trained with the Victoria Police qualifying as a prosecutor and later as a hostage negotiator. In 1979 Ian was seconded to the Victoria Police Drug Squad, which resulted in him obtaining a wide ranging and diverse appreciation of both crime and punishment. During this time he studied management at Monash University.

In 1987 Ian was appointed as Governor Grade III, Officer in Charge H.M Prison, Ararat. With the commissioning of H.M Prison, Langi Kal Kal in 1993 he was promoted to the rank of General Manager Western Region Prisons. He served in this position until his retirement in 1999.

Barry Edward Traynor

Born	1946
Ararat High School	1959 - 1964
Police Inspector and Detective Criminal Investigation Branch	
Member of Parliament	



Barry was Form Captain, House Captain and Prefect and represented the school at football, cricket and cross- country. In the five years at Ararat High School he was in the top three runners for 5 years in a row in cross -country. After leaving school and working in an Ararat Bank, in 1966 he joined the Victoria Police Force and became a detective with the Criminal Investigation Branch and worked cases on outlaw motorcycle gangs. He went back to school to matriculate and completed four diplomas, in risk assessment, law, management and investigation. He studied whilst in the police force and rose to the rank of Inspector as Staff Officer to the Commander No.1 Region in Melbourne. Barry resigned from the Victoria Police Force and entered State Parliament as the Member for Ballarat East from 1992 to 1999. He was chairperson of the Police and Emergency Service Bills Committee and a member of the Parliamentary Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee which gave him the opportunity to travel to the USA, Canada and the UK studying organised crime.

Always fit he completed the Big M Marathon and the Red Cross Murray River Canoe Marathon. Barry was awarded the National Medal and The Victoria Police Service Medal. Now retired he does voluntary work for a disability organisation. At one stage of his career he was on five different community boards. Ararat High School will always hold fond memories of wonderful teachers and great students.

Alan Douglas Finch

Born	1948
Ararat High School	1960 - 1965
Bond University Pro-Vice-Chancellor	



After matriculating from Ararat High School in 1965, having been a prefect and representing the School at football and baseball, Alan completed a BA at the University of Melbourne with the intention of becoming a secondary teacher. However as so often happens, he decided to move in a different direction. He worked for GMH at Fisherman's Bend in Personnel for around 18 months before accepting a position at Monash University in 1970 and has spent the rest of his career in universities, still occasionally teaching.

In 1987 he accepted a position at the newly created Bond University on the Gold Coast and spent five and a half years there, rising to the position of Registrar. He then went to the University of Southern Queensland in 1992 as its Registrar, returning to Bond again in 1996 as Registrar and Company Secretary. As Bond grew Alan was subsequently appointed as Pro-Vice-Chancellor, with responsibility for most aspects of Bond University's operations outside the classroom, which relate to its students. His period of employment with Bond now spans a total of almost 23 years. His involvement in the creation and shaping of a new university, and the first private university in Australia, is something that he describes as a unique opportunity, which has been both demanding and satisfying as Bond looks forward to celebrating 25 years of teaching in May of 2014. Alan also sits on the governing body of the Queensland Studies Authority as a Ministerial appointee, representing higher education, and chairs its Finance Committee. He chairs the Council of the Universal Business School Sydney, and is Deputy Chair of the Council of Private Higher Education, which is the peak national body for private higher education institutions.

He remembers many incidents and personalities from his Ararat High School days, including a number of inspirational teachers, but perhaps the most enduring memory is of the late Norm O'Neill, the Woodwork teacher whose ability to deliver a chalk laden blackboard duster with unerring accuracy left many school uniforms wearing an unmistakable rectangular white patch.

Geoff Plant OAM

Born	1950
Ararat High School	1962 - 1967
Hearing rehabilitation	
Macquarie University	
WHO Scholarship to Sweden and Denmark	1977
Swedish Institute Fellowship	1983, 1985
Medal of the Order of Australia	1992



Geoff trained as a teacher of the deaf and worked as a classroom teacher before joining the National Acoustic Laboratories in 1974. During his years at NAL, he became more and more interested in the effects of an acquired hearing loss on all aspects of communication. Geoff has a special interest in the use of music to enhance language skills of children with cochlear implants. His interest was increased by several visits to clinics and research facilities in Denmark and Sweden. His major interest remains providing and promoting the development of Speech Communication skills for children and adults with hearing loss. He has worked in many countries, with six years at Rhode Island School for the Deaf and eight years at Innsbruck, Austria. He now works part time for MED-EL UK.

Michael Christie

Born 1945
Ararat High School 1961 - 1962
Maths / Science Teacher



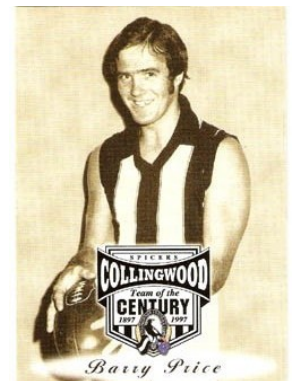
Michael transferred to Ararat High School in his senior years to study science (Chemistry and Physics). After completing his matriculation in 1962 he went to Melbourne University to do a science degree with majors in chemistry and physics.

As an educational trainee Michael continued to pursue his strong interest in science taking his first teaching post at the Footscray Institute of Technology in the Chemistry Department. He was then transferred to Yallourn Senior Technical College in Gippsland where he taught in the physics department. In 1966 Michael returned to the Footscray Institute of Technology. In 1972 Michael took up a position at the Preston Institute of Technology (later the Phillip Institute) where he taught mathematics and computing.

Two years later Michael took a sabbatical to complete a Masters in Mathematics at the University of South Hampton in the UK. His Masters area of study was on operational research into the application of maths in business and industry. Michael returned to the Phillip Institute (which became part of RMIT 1993) where he continued teaching in the areas of mathematics and computing until he retired in 1999. Michael is married with four sons and continues to teach computing part-time in the TAFE sector.

Barry Price

Born 1949
Ararat High School 1961 - 1965
VFL Footballer



Barry grew up barracking for Collingwood and idolising 1958 premiership heroes, Murray Weideman and Thorold Merrett. He attended Ararat High School where he attracted the interest of eight VFL clubs. He said no until the ninth club knocked — Collingwood!

Barry Price was born in 1949 and completed his education at Ararat. He was a renowned footballer in the Wimmera Football League. He started his VFL career as a 17 year old, and soon developed a reputation as an elusive, quick, decisive and accurate player. Over his career as a Collingwood Footballer he played 158 games. Price was renowned as a superb midfielder, he complemented star full forward Peter McKenna, who stated that Price was an outstanding kick that was always spot on and very hard. In 1969 Price was awarded the Copeland Trophy, Collingwood's Best and Fairest. Since finishing as a player Price has continued to be heavily involved with football, coaching various VFA, VAFA Clubs. Barry was appointed head of sport at Scotch College where he has remained for many years.

He was always seen as a 'gentleman of the game' and was a fitness fanatic. In his weekends back in Ararat he used to run up and down Flint Hill. He has been inducted into the Collingwood Hall of Fame.

Heather McRae (nee Nicol)

Born 1948
Ararat High School 1960 - 1964
Service to the Community - Foster Care



Since leaving Ararat High School Heather's main focus has been children, their well being and links with family and community. Heather has taken on many roles from mothercraft nurse, pre-school teacher, partner, mother, foster carer, Willaura farmer, mature aged student, active community member, Department of Humans Services (DHS) Victoria Program Advisor / Senior Engagement Officer, grandmother, traveller...

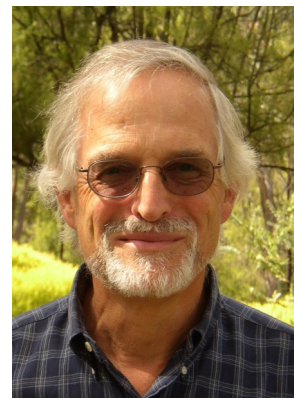
Initially a stay at home mum, from 1978 more than 25 foster children were placed with Heather's family (two still keep in regular contact; one married with children of her own is still a family member). In 2001, Heather's family was nominated by one of their former foster children and the family was selected from over 900 Australian applications as one of 20 finalists in Australian Family of the Year Award. Heather returned to study in her late 40s to enable her to continue her work with DHS in the Ararat area in foster care public relations, assessor for foster care families and as a case worker. She graduated from Monash Gippsland in 1998 with Associate Diploma of Arts (Social Welfare).

Second to family, Heather remains passionate and actively involved (from a personal and professional perspective) to ensure vulnerable individuals and families have access to local supports and services.

She travels each year with family, and has visited many countries around the world including China, Thailand, Vietnam, Peru, Argentina, Brazil, India, Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey, Croatia, China and Hungary.

Graeme William Jameson

Born 1943
Ararat High School 1955 - 1960
Organic Chemist



After studying biochemistry and chemistry at the University of Melbourne, Graeme graduated from that university in 1969 with a PhD in organic chemistry. He undertook biochemical research at the Queen's University of Belfast and then at the Victorian Plant Research Institute, Burnley, after which he joined CSIRO at the Dairy Research Laboratory in Highett, Victoria. At CSIRO, Graeme led a team working on cheese technology, focussing mainly on applications of ultrafiltration in cheesemaking to improve yield in the manufacture of hard cheeses. This work led to the development of the first automated continuous cheesemaking process (APV-Sirocurd), and invention of the technology for manufacturing Cheesebase, used for the manufacture of processed cheese. In 1991, Graeme was appointed Head of the Dairy Research Laboratory, CSIRO Division of Food Science and Technology, managing 60-70 staff engaged in programs in dairy science and technology. When the Division became part of the joint venture Food Science Australia, Graeme held the role of Group manager, Food Biotechnology, until he retired in 1998. For the next five years he and his wife Jill worked the farm they had developed over 20 years at Hoddles Creek, producing chestnuts, fruit, and a little wine. In 2003 they moved to Warrandyte where Graeme is a founding member of WarrandyteCAN (Climate Action Now). Over the years, Graeme and Jill have travelled extensively in Asia and Europe, including trekking in the Himalayas and 4WD camping trips in Australia. They have five children and ten grandchildren.

1963- 1972

Alan Morris was principal from 1963 to 1968. He was in charge of a very big school. It was also the year of the 50th anniversary. It was celebrated in style. Hockey and football matches were played between ex students and present day students, the Ladies' Welfare Group ran a fete and as a highlight there was a cabaret ball and dinner. The school was by now running a full academic course as well as a full technical course.

An arrival in 1964 was Miss Joan Shillington who ran the finances and office for many years. She was never afraid to remind teachers of their shortcomings. 1964 was also the beginning of a series of musicals and plays: Toad of Toad Hall, Pygmalion and The Admirable Crichton.

Speech nights/afternoons were abandoned as was dux of the school. The aim was for everyone to strive for excellence without highlighting individuals.

Developments during Alan Morris' time included an extension, the West Wing in 1964, followed by the East Wing in 1968. The canteen started in 1966. The school was now known as Ararat High and Technical School; there was a strong push for a stand alone Technical School, exclusively for boys.

There was also unease within the profession. Over time, unqualified teachers had come into the system: staff went on strike over the issues of unqualified staff and poor working conditions.

Sport reached a very high standard during this era. Murray Emerson won the Sun Kick at the MCG in front of more than 70,000 people. The football team was GSSSA premiers for six years in a row, not a surprise with players of the calibre of Barry Price and later Barry Grinter; the Netball team was just as successful. Girls' Basketball and GSSSA Athletics also won shields.

In 1969, George James arrived as Principal. The school had over 600 students. At the same time, Jack Pitt became Principal of the Technical School with 215 students and 22 staff. After three years the Technical School moved to a new site. The Ararat Technical School set up on the corner of Gordon Street and Elizabeth Street. The Principal was Mr Roy Baker and the uniform was blue shirt, grey trousers and red cardigan.

Geoff Parkinson

Born 1950
Ararat High School 1963 - 1969

Secondary School Teacher

Former student and member of staff

January 1, 1974 Appointed to Ararat High School

February 4, 2011 First day of retirement



Geoff grew up in Ararat and attended Ararat West Primary School and Ararat High School, furthering his education at Monash University and Rusden S.C.V. by completing a Bachelor of Science and Diploma of Education. Initially Chemistry was to be his main interest of study; however he found Mathematics more to his liking, majoring in Mathematical Statistics and Applied Mathematics. Dip. Ed. at Rusden under the auspices of Bruce Henry, Marj Horne and Ted Byrtt was an inspiring experience for Geoff who went on to complete a double-Maths teaching method. He was appointed to the Ararat High School in 1974 and remained there through the name-changes Ararat Secondary College, Ararat Community College and finally, Ararat College. Geoff has taught Mathematics throughout his teaching career with only two detours into Year 8 Science in the early 80s. He has been involved in level coordination at Years 9, 10 and VCE levels, Mathematics coordination, Country Bus coordination and a plethora of other extra-curricular activities. Geoff has always believed in and promoted State education often with the statement "If the school is good enough to pay my wages then it's good enough to educate my daughters". Towards the end of his career, Geoff was involved with teaching VCAL Numeracy which he found challenging but extremely rewarding.

On interviewing one of his ex-students who used to question the relevance of maths, the student said. "I have now found a lot of worth in the maths Parky taught me.". He also remembers that Geoff had a great interest in cars, stating that the XR Falcon was an "under-rated" car.". Pity he didn't buy one when they were cheap.

Peter Gemmola

Born 1952
Ararat High School 1964 - 1969

Teacher and Assistant Principal



Peter attended Ararat High School for the six years of his secondary education. His memories include "kick to kick" each recess and lunch time, Norm Naylor's woodwork class and the impact Rick Courtis, Buck Rogers and Bruce Hearn had on his education. His first experience in a leadership position was as a Prefect the year Neil Armstrong walked on the moon. Peter and Theresa were pleased when their four children decided to attend Ararat Secondary College and believe it provided the ideal rounded education to prepare them for life.

Since matriculating Peter has spent 40 years in education as a primary school teacher and Assistant Principal. He taught in Victoria, Western Australia and Malaysia when he was seconded to the RAAF for three years. Teaching many years in Ararat gave him great personal satisfaction as he followed many of his students' path through life. Peter is remembered for his wonderful rapport with children, his excellent organisation as seen on camps, excursions, curriculum delivery and school fetes. His sense of humour enhanced many a trivia night.

He has a commitment to the Ararat Community through various organisations and believes it is a great place to raise a family.

Peter played with Ararat Football Club, winning a Premiership in 1971 and 1975 as centre half back. Peter has done a lot of voluntary work with a wide range of charities in Ararat.

Vice Admiral Russell Edward Shalders AO CSC RAN

Born 1951
Ararat High School 1963 - 1966

Vice Admiral Royal Australian Navy

1967 Cadet Midshipman in RAN, training 2nd in command HMAS Ardent
Commander of Samurai
1981 Lieutenant Commander
1986 - 1987 Commander of HMAS Sydney
1991 Commander of HMAS Darwin during Gulf War -Conspicuous Service Cross
2002 Vice Admiral and Vice Chief of the Defence Force
2003 Officer of the Order of Australia
2005 - 2008 Chief of the Navy



Russell Shalders has fond memories of his fellow students and a caring and professional group of teachers who were devoted to providing an excellent education. He left after Year 10 to continue his education as a Cadet Midshipman in the Royal Australian Navy, having been convinced by a recruiting team in mid 1966 that the Navy offered an exciting and interesting life.

Forty one years later, after a very fulfilling and rewarding career, he retired as the most senior officer in the Navy, with the rank of Vice Admiral. During that time he served around the world, commanded ships ranging from patrol boats to Guided Missile Destroyers, and had the privilege of leading the finest sailors in the world. He saw action in Vietnam and the Gulf War.

His family had lived in Ararat and surrounding districts since the 1850s. His father, Ken, had run a successful carrying business in town since returning from Army service in WW11. From the house in High Street West, it was an easy walk to, firstly Ararat West Primary School, then Ararat High where he started in 1963.

Charles R De Fegely

Born 1955
Ararat High School 1967 - 1968

Farming and Agricultural Consultant



After Charles completed schooling in 1973 he returned home to the family farm where he worked with his father running a sheep and cropping property. Charles took over the management of the property when his father Richard entered state politics in 1985. As well as managing the property, he became involved in several volunteer community organizations. Charles joined the Country Fire Authority in 1972 and was the Ararat Group Officer from 2004-2010. In 2012 he was awarded Life Membership of the Ararat Fire Brigade Group. He was a member of the Ararat and District Hospital Board from 1981 to 1997 and was Chairman from 1985-1988. He was awarded Life Governorship in 1997. He has held several key roles with the Victorian Farmers federation Ararat branch from 1975, and is still the secretary today.

Charles was elected to the general council of the Grasslands Society of Victoria from 1987 – 97 working on developing pasture production for the grazing lands of Victoria. He was awarded Life Membership in 1997 for his efforts. He was also a member of the International Wool Secretariat's Zone Advisory Committee working on research, development and extension for the wool industry. From 1998 to 2012 he was consultant with an agricultural advisory company, Mike Stephens and Associates, working with farmers and research companies carrying out farming trials prior to them being extended to the wider industry. Charles is married with 3 sons and continues to farm on the family property at Dobie.

The Hon Robert Borbidge AO

Born 1954

Ararat High School 1966 - 1972

Premier of Queensland



Robert (Rob) Borbidge attended Ararat High School from 1966 to 1972 with the exception of 1971 when he travelled to Caledon in South Africa as a Rotary Exchange Student. Despite being offered a Commonwealth Scholarship when he finished school, Rob chose to remain on the family farm. Rob developed an interest in politics at a young age. At 16 he was the secretary of the Rossbridge/ Maroona Branch of The Country Party and ran for the local seat of Ripon in 1976.

Rob and his family moved to Queensland in 1977 where he became actively involved in the Queensland Branch of the National Party. In 1980 he won the Gold Coast seat of Surfers Paradise entering parliament in the later years of the Bjelke-Petersen government. In 1987 he was offered the Industry, Small Business, Communications and Technology portfolio and later became the Minister for Tourism, Environment and Conservation. In the 1989 election Rob retained his seat in parliament and during this time in opposition he served in a number of senior Cabinet posts and as Deputy Leader before becoming the leader of the National Party. In 1996 he became Premier of Queensland when the National Party gained minority government. Two years later, the National Party was returned to opposition after the 1998 elections. Rob continued to serve as a member of government and leader of the opposition until his resignation in 2001.

Since then Rob has held a number of Directorships in the both the private and public sectors. He is Chairman of Careflight Queensland, Chair of the 2018 Commonwealth Games Legacy Committee and a Trustee of the Currumbin Wildlife Hospital. Rob maintains a close association with Griffith University as a member of the Council of Griffith University, the Chair of the Board of Advice for the Institute for Glycomics, a Board member of the Griffith Foundation and a member of the Board of Trustees of the Friends of Griffith (incorporated in the United States).

In 2003 Rob was awarded the Centenary Medal and a Doctor of the University (Griffith) in 2004. In 2009 Rob was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO). Rob is currently Senior Counsel with Brisbane based public affairs consultancy Govstrat, Chairman of Cedar Creek Cellars and was a columnist for the historic 2012 Queensland election for The Australian.

(The Hon. Rob Borbidge, The Hon. Richard Court Premier of Western Australia and The Hon. Tony Rundle Premier of Tasmania)



Margaret Crawford

Born 1954

Ararat High School 1966 - 1972

Deputy Director General NSW Department of Family & Community Services



Margaret was a school prefect and sports captain and active participant in school hockey, softball and sporting teams in general. Based on her academic record, Margaret attained “early admission” to Australian National University at the end of 5th form and after completing Higher school certificate went to university in Canberra between 1973 and 1975. While at university, she played hockey for the ACT and NSW under 21 sides.

After graduating (and a 10 day career as a kitchen hand at the Turf hotel), Margaret joined the Victorian Public Service in Melbourne. While progressing through the ranks of the public sector she completed further graduate studies and a Masters of Business Administration. She also continued playing first grade hockey, was made a life member of MCC Hockey Club, and represented Victoria in underage and veteran teams. Margaret’s public sector management career took her to NSW in 1996, Brisbane in 2000, the Tax Office in Canberra in 2005, back to Melbourne as the Director of Housing in 2008 and recently to Sydney to her current role as Deputy Director General of a 21,000 strong organisation.

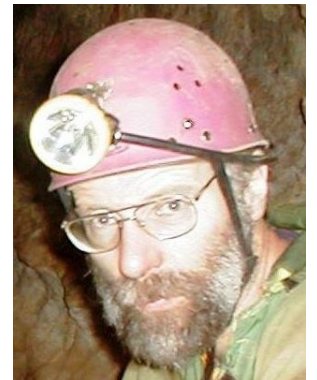
Throughout her long and successful career Margaret has never lost touch with her best mates from Ararat High, Hommy, Rena and Hope!

Jeffery Alan Butt

Born 1959 - 2004

Ararat High School 1971 - 1976

Physicist



Jeffery Alan Butt, “Nature’s Gentleman”, attended Ararat Primary School No 800 where his Grade 1 Teacher was so amazed at his mathematical skills that she wrote in his School Report “that Jeff was brilliant at Cuisenaires (Mathematics)”; while teachers in later years stated he would be able to teach any of the many subjects he studied if he chose to do so.

Jeff graduated from Monash University as a Bachelor of Science (Physics) on 24th April 1981. He also attended the Australian National University where he studied Physics. He gained employment at the Weather Bureau in Canberra transferring to Melbourne and later onto Hobart where he commenced working with the CSIRO as an Oceanographer travelling to many parts of the Globe. In Tasmania, he discovered his fascination and love of Caving and Jeff was a driving force in amalgamating two small Caverneering Clubs into a thriving unit. Jeff also worked with Australian Speleological Federation on their safety guidelines which to this day remains as an integral part of their Australian operations. Jeff was on his way to Antarctica on the “Nella Dan” when she grounded at Macquarie Island. Jeff was always in demand by the Search & Rescue Police and personally found many lost bushwalkers (some alive and some who unfortunately had passed away - a harrowing experience). An adventurous life, well lived.

The Southern Tasmanian Caverneers on 03/03/04 presented Jeff with a Special Citation some of which reads as follows – “For your outstanding & dedicated service to the Club since its inception in maintaining the gear store & register, charging the lights, carrying out rope testing, instigating & supervising the p-hanging project, co-ordinating with the Police Search & Rescue, running beginner’s trips & training trips at Fruehauf Quarry, and for services to caving in general such as surveying, mapping & documentation, as well as your contribution to that great fraternity that is caving in Tasmania, Australia & abroad.”

Richard Shalders csc

Born	1955
Ararat High School	1968 - 1973
Commander Royal Australian Navy (retired)	
1974	Began in Royal Australian Navy.
2008	Retired as a Flag Officer and Head of the Australian Submarine Service.



Growing up in Ararat and attending the High School gave Richard a solid start, many schoolmates and some great experiences that shaped the rest of his life, serving overseas and in Australia. He remembers the school fondly as it was integral to the greater community where he developed the values and ethics for the years ahead. Sport was a key building block in learning the values of communication, teamwork and setting and achieving goals. Richard represented the school in football, tennis, basketball and athletics. While still at school, he was a member of the 1973 Miners Premiership team, playing off half back. The strong and vital encouragement from his maths and science teachers gave him confidence to follow his dreams, join the navy and achieve success. Challenging traditional thinking and a thirst for science and technology in the navy had its genesis at school.

After reaching the rank of head of the Australian Submarine Service, Richard has not completely retired. He is currently working in Australia's Defence Industry with Raytheon Australia as the General Manager Rapid Prototyping Development and Evaluation Program.

He works in Canberra and lives in Bonegilla, Victoria with his wife, Margaret. His two children, Thomas and Annabelle, graduated from university as health professionals and are employed with Royal Life Saving Society in W.A. and the RAN

Rene Kink

Born	1956
Ararat High School	1969 - 1972
VFL Footballer	

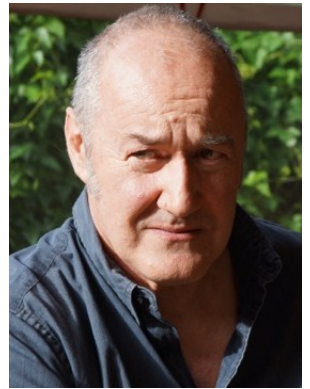


Rene Kink was born in Ararat, and began his education in Ararat before moving to Melbourne High where he captained a very talented school team. He was a star footballer in the junior ranks and all round athlete holding many records at Ararat High School. Rene was drafted to Collingwood at 15 and played his first full match in their Preliminary Final loss to Carlton in 1973. Not letting this stand in his way Kink went on to have a stellar career as a footballer with a booming kick and marking ability and excelled under the guidance of Tommy Hafey. Despite his hefty 183cm, 86kg build, Rene Kink was as agile and aerodynamic as he was powerful. Indeed, he was a genuinely mercurial footballer, who at his best could be as exhilarating to watch as any player in the VFL. He was at full forward in both the drawn 1977 Grand Final and the replay, which Collingwood lost, and he played on a half forward flank in the losing Grand Finals of 1979, 1980 and 1981. In 1983, after playing a total of 154 games and kicking 240 goals for the 'Pies, he transferred to Essendon, and ended up playing in yet another losing Grand Final that same year. He played 20 VFL games and booted 35 goals for the Bombers before finishing his career with seven games and five goals for St Kilda in 1986.

Since football, Rene was for a long time a Ladies Hairdresser; then he set up a flower farm, specializing in carnations; now he is a landscaper as well as growing pomegranates. His main regret is that he was dissuaded from studying architecture. But on the way he has met a lot of interesting people and still has ties to Ararat.

Philip Dalkin

Born 1955
Ararat High School 1967 - 1972
Screenwriter



"The last time I walked back into the school Assembly Hall, I saw a board at the back of it that has a list of Head Prefects throughout the years. Strangely enough, my name (and that of the Head Girl Prefect – Gail Dempster) – was at the bottom. The last. Finito. No more after 1972. Maybe the powers-that-be clearly decided that they could never do any better than our group (or worse) and abandoned the whole Prefect system entirely." The years Philip spent at 'Ararat High School' as it was then, were quite momentous times. From the first Heart Transplant – the Kennedy assassinations – the first moon landing – the Beatles breaking up – to the introduction of pocket calculators. There was a lot happening and he remembers High School as being a fun place to be.

After High School he attended Art School in Ballarat and then, through getting involved in Theatre, got into writing. The first thing he tried to write professionally was a movie – and it actually got made. Sheer luck.

At present, he still holds the record for the longest running sit-coms on two networks. He was Executive Producer and Co-creator of "All Together Now" – the longest running sit-com on the Nine Network – and Co-creator of "Col'n Carpenter" – the longest running on Network 10. He has had a very diverse career – running the Script Department on prime-time cop show "Stingers" – writing lots of dramas like "All Saints" and "Sea Patrol" – and writing lots of Childrens TV, including shows like "H2O – Just Add Water" and "Dogstar" which have been seen by millions of children all over the world. A few years back, he even received an unprecedented Australian Film Institute nomination for an episode of Dogstar in the 'Best Television Drama Script' category – even though it was a kids' animated series (up against those 'big deal prime-time dramas'). Go figure.

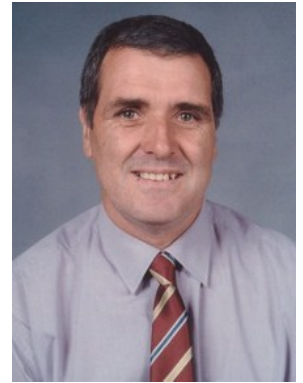
Recently, as co-writer of the feature film "33 Postcards" starring Guy Pearce, he set the strange precedent of having written the only two official China/Australia Co-Production Feature Films so far. Writing is a challenging, but very rewarding career. He won't say he owes it all to his years at Ararat High School - everything takes endless effort and persistence after all – but there's no doubt that it was a place where he learnt a lot and did more 'growing up' than at any other time of his life.

(Philip Dalkin - fifth from left)



David Burke

Born 1953
Ararat High School 1965 - 1970
Principal Portland Secondary College



On graduating in 1975 from Melbourne University (Bachelor of Science Education) David and his wife Julie, made their home in Portland where he taught maths, chemistry and science at the high school. From about 1986 he became involved in researching student learning and teaching. From 1989 this passion saw him collaborate with Monash University through the PEEL project (Project for the enhancement of effective learning). Over the next 20 years through this project he has had work published both here in Australia, USA and Canada, also doing workshops in these countries and Victoria / ACT. In 1991 David gained a Vice Principal position from which he progressed to Principal of the Secondary College in 2002 until 2007, following which he was involved in coaching staff until his retirement at the end of 2011. During his time in the principal class David always taught a class and as his top priority assisted in staff development aimed at better student learning.

David is now happily retired. His life is busy with his wife, 3 children and 1 grandchild, golfing, kayaking, fishing, shooting, travelling and building / maintenance projects.

Ian Dreher

Born 1957
Ararat High School 1969 - 1975
**Manager Regional Strategy,
Department of Planning and Community Development**



Along with his brothers, Ian grew up in Willaura, son of the local pharmacist. He has strong recollections of his life at Ararat High School. " When looking back it's strange what pops into your head. Things like Mrs Kneebone playing the Two Blues and Gold on the piano for the weekly assembly, Ian McGregor's antics in the Chemistry class. The volcano he made one day was particularly memorable (not sure who cleaned it up) and of course there was the occasional waft of hydrogen sulphide. Deliberate? Who knows?" Ian also remembers the first photocopier coming into the school and watching the first landing of a man on the moon.

Ian studied at Longerenong Agricultural College after leaving Ararat High School, then worked for a short time at Yarram Park. In 1979 he took a job with the Department of Crown Lands and Survey and almost 34 years later he is still working for the Victorian Government. His working life has revolved around the region where he grew up and he has been a leader and instigator of innovative projects that have enriched the lives of many rural residents. If you are walking down Barkly Street and admire the vines growing on the shop verandahs or are watching the upgrade of the amenities at Alexander Oval unfold, if you are having a function at the Moyston Community Centre or your kids are playing on the new facilities at the Willaura Recreation Reserve, then this is the very satisfying work with which Ian has been involved.

Ian works with communities, local governments and business across the Grampians region in his role of improving economic performance of regional communities. When interviewed Ian explained, "Throughout my career I've been fortunate to stay connected to regional living and have never lost my love for Willaura and for all those small towns like it that have suffered at the hand of centralist policies and become victims to the employment lure of the big cities." Ian and his wife Andrea live in Ballarat having raised their two boys, Tom, a golf pro and Hugh, a restaurant owner and chef.

Stuart Kerr

Born 1959
Ararat High School 1970 - 1975
Director Support Services East Grampians Health Service



Stuart left school to obtain a casual position at the Ararat & District Hospital now known as East Grampians Health Service as a cleaner and kitchen-hand. During this time an opportunity arose and he obtained an apprenticeship in cookery and from this he worked his way up to become Manager of the Catering Department. Stuart has seen many changes at East Grampians Health Service one being the implementation of cook-chill and he has been engaged to review and implement this system at other health services.

Outside of work he also ran a private catering business for weddings and function, for approximately 15 years.

In 1995 Stuart was appointed Manager of Support Services which included Environmental / Cleaning and Catering. He obtained a Diploma of Business (Front Line Management) in 2004 and held this position until 2007 when he became Director Support Services and are responsible for Catering (internal and external), Food Services, Maintenance (including preventative maintenance), Grounds and Garden, Contractors, Projects, Environmental / Cleaning and also has been involved in consultancy work at other Health Services.

Stuart has been employed at EGHS for 38 years during this time, he has embraced change which reflects his loyalty, dedication and work ethics during his time at the Health Service.

Timothy Alec Allender

Born 1959
Ararat High School 1971 - 1976
Associate Professor at Sydney University



Tim Allender entered Ararat High School in 1971, the last year the Technical School was situated on the same site, when the combined enrolment was some 800 students. This was a big step for him after a happy education at Buangor Primary State School. Unlike his father and grandfather, who also attended Ararat High School, he was never a sportsman; but he was able to make up for this through the vital teachers who taught him, including the seven who successively taught him English in Year 10 during a severe teacher shortage. Tim's love of History took him first to Monash University and then, on scholarship, to the University of Sydney where his two postgraduate degrees were in British economic history and Indian colonial education respectively. Tim taught History in secondary schools for 13 years in Australia and in the UK, and he was also deputy director of the Delmar art gallery in Sydney for over a decade.

Tim is currently an Associate Professor at Sydney University having authored or co-authored three books (including a local history of Buangor), four edited books and 30 international journal articles. His current book concerns state and race constructions of femininity in colonial India. He has been the academic advisor in NSW for the new National Curriculum (History). Tim has been a visiting fellow at the Universities of London and Winchester, UK and also at Braunschweig (Germany); and, more recently, he was appointed a visiting professor at the University of Toronto, Canada, and at the Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla, India. He has received two Australia Research Council (ARC) grants for research; and in 2012 he was awarded one of fourteen international History Fellowships to Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), India.

Paul Hooper

Born	1959
Ararat High School	1972 - 1974
Local Businessman and Rural City Councillor	



After attending Ararat High School from 1972 to 1974, Paul Hooper has proven himself as a successful local businessman and entrepreneur. After High School Paul worked at his family's supermarket in Ararat and soon took over as manager. He soon became a valued member of Self Service Wholesalers (SSW) supermarkets, which was Australia's largest independent supermarket chain at the time. In 1982 he was appointed to the SSW board and at various times performed roles including being chairperson for the marketing, groceries, fresh food and information technology (IT) committees. Paul sold his family business in 1998 looking forward to focussing on consulting where he saw further success providing IT advice to the independent supermarket sector and working locally as an employment consultant. He later took up a unique opportunity as the business Manager of Ararat Community College before buying back his family supermarket in 2002.

As well as running his business, in 1998, Paul joined the Ararat Rural City Council as a councillor and was later appointed as Mayor for 2 terms in 2004 and 2005. In 2004 Paul went back to his roots and helped establish Peach's Fruit Markets retail division. Paul's individual store became a chain of 9 stores supplying affordable fresh produce to regional Victoria. He sold his interest in Peaches in 2011. Now enjoying retirement, Paul continues his entrepreneurial pursuits in the buying and investments space and has returned to local council to give back to the town that helped make his business pursuits successful.

Professor Ian D Clark PhD

Born	1958
Ararat Technical School	1970 - 1974
Ararat High School	1975

Professor of Tourism, University of Ballarat



- 1979 Bachelor of Theology from Melbourne College of Divinity**
- 1982 Bachelor of Arts (Honours) from Monash University**
- 1992 Doctor of Philosophy - Aboriginal Historical Geography Monash University**

Dr Ian D. Clark attended Ararat High School in 1975 and gained his Higher School Certificate (Year 12) after having completed secondary studies at Ararat Technical School. He then went to Melbourne to pursue tertiary studies and gained a Bachelor of Theology from Melbourne College of Divinity in 1979; a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in 1982 and a Doctor of Philosophy from Monash University in 1992. He has worked as a senior researcher in the Victorian Tourism Commission; manager of the Brambuk Aboriginal Cultural Centre in Halls Gap, and as Research Fellow in History at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies in Canberra. He has held tutoring and lecturing positions in Geography and Tourism Management at Monash University, and is currently a Professor of Tourism in the Business School of the University of Ballarat, where he has been employed since 2000. His research interests centre on Victorian Aboriginal history, place names; Indigenous tourism, and tourism history. He has published numerous books and papers that centre on the Djabwurrung Aboriginal people of the Ararat district.

Peter Price

Born	1959
Ararat High School	1972 - 1976
Farming	
1977	Surveyor's assistant and studied at the School of Mines Ballarat
1980	Returned to family farm in Willaura



Peter's story of his life on the land is typical of many farming families of the district. Peter is the 4th son of Bill and Val Price, who were allocated a soldier settler block at Willaura- part of Edgarley Estate in 1948. Bill and Val raised five boys, four of whom attended the high school: Keith, now a retired police officer, Leon a school teacher, Ashleigh a mining engineer and Wesley a Steel fabricator. Bill was a member of the School Council and Val served on the school canteen.

Peter and his wife Lou (also a daughter of a soldier settler at Yalla-Y-Poora) have developed their farming enterprise over the last 30 years. Originally it was predominantly a fine wool property, but now having quadrupled in size, it runs merinos, crossbreds for meat and wool, prime lambs, cattle, cereal crops including wheat, oats and barley, canola and hay production. Like many smaller rural communities, Willaura has relied on the volunteer support of its residents. Peter has served his community generously, being involved in many local organisations including the Willaura Football Club where he played over 300 senior games and was President, Willaura Primary School Council, the Cemetery Trust, Young Farmers, the Cricket and Tennis Clubs and friends of Lake Buninjon. Peter and Lou's four children have also attended Ararat High School: Jacqui is currently a theatre nurse at the Stawell hospital, Sally is studying Bachelor of Nursing/Midwifery, Belinda is in her first year of Commerce and their son Josh has returned to the family farm after gaining a Bachelor of Business (Agriculture).

Peter has witnessed many changes in farming. It is now more intense and demands the use of technology such as GPS, computers and robotic mechanics instead of being "hands-on" and manual work. Peter and Josh see the future of farming to be promising, due to the fact that the world population is increasing dramatically and the needs for nutrition must be met.

Peter's involvement with Ararat High School has continued in recent years. He donated six ewes and a ram to Mr Rowe's Agricultural Enterprise at the school farm and also demonstrated shearing the sheep for several classes!

Barry Grinter

Born	1951
Ararat High School	1969
VFL Footballer	



Barry attended Ararat high School for only one year and warmly remembers his two Maths teachers, Don Heath and Ian Watson. He recalls Peter Christie who played with him in the Ararat Football team; Barry moved to RMIT on a studentship, then Coburg Teachers' College before saying no to teaching. Barry played football for Essendon in the 70's. He was recruited to Essendon from Ararat where he had an excellent career in the Wimmera Football League. Grinter played most of his football either as a ruck man or as tall defender. From 1974 to 1976, Grinter put together 46 consecutive games and was the runner-up in Essendon's 1975 Best and Fairest award. The following year he was the club's equal third best performer in the Brownlow medal count. After a season as captain coach of Hobart in 1977, Grinter resumed his VFL career at Richmond but could only manage six appearances. He went on to coach Queensland Australian Football League club Windsor- Zillmere from 1983 to 1984.

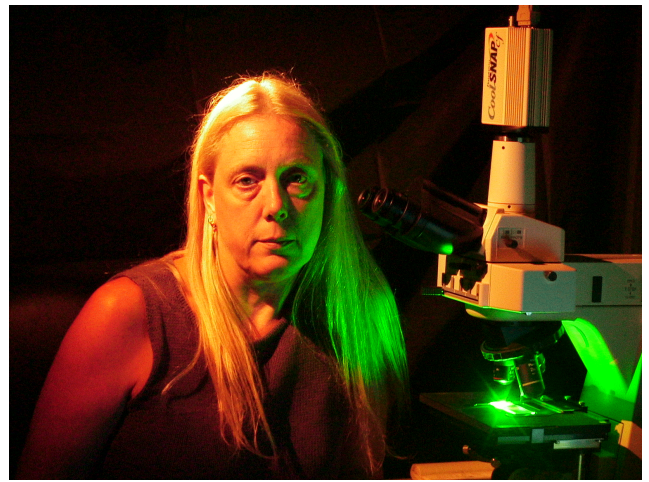
Barry became a policeman in 1973 and was at one stage the drill instructor for 18 year old cadets. Later he lived for 25 years in Queensland before returning to Ararat and buying the Court House Hotel. He now drives the school bus in Beaufort.

Frances Lesley Hannan

Born 1960
Ararat High School 1972 - 1977

Neurogeneticist

1978 - 1981	BSc (Ed), University of Melbourne
1982 - 1983	Maths/Science teacher, Lalor Technical School
1984	BSc (Hons), University of Melbourne
1985 - 1990	University of Melbourne: PhD (Genetics)
1990 - 1993	Postdoctoral Researcher, SUNY Buffalo (USA)
1993 - 1996	Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Cambridge (UK)
1996 - 2004	Postdoctoral Researcher, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (USA)
2004 - present	Assistant Professor, New York Medical College (USA)



Frances is a neurogeneticist who studies nervous system function and behavior, using fruit flies. Mary Hickey was a huge influence on her, always supportive and encouraging, and Frances was also inspired by Ian McGregor to major in Chemistry at Melbourne University. While there, she discovered a passion for genetics and molecular biology, that led her to get a PhD in genetics.

She spent several years gaining research experience at prestigious laboratories in the USA and England, before settling down to run her own lab at New York Medical College. Frances' research focuses on learning and memory defects in fruit flies, which model a common human disorder called Neurofibromatosis Type 1 (NF1). This devastating disease causes disfiguring nervous system tumors, as well as learning disabilities in children. She also studies hearing defects, using electrophysiology and state of the art fluorescent imaging in living flies. This research has been published in major scientific journals including Science, and Nature, and has been funded by grants from the US Army, and several private foundations.

She has also received several awards, including an Australian Commonwealth Postgraduate Research Award, and a Young Investigator Award from the US-based Children's Tumor Foundation.

Frances lives just north of New York City with her husband Peter O'Brien, and 13 year old son Rory, and a pack of talented border collies that she trains in her spare time, to compete in agility and herding trials.

(Frances Hannan - Senior Hockey Team, standing third from right)



1973 - 1982

Ararat High School

The High School faced many challenges during this time. The ratio of boys to girls was affected by the Ararat Technical School being boys only until 1977. Numbers decreased as the Technical School grew, giving the High School a population of 361 by 1981. This period also saw many teachers come and go. It was not uncommon in the early 70s to see 15 to 20 new staff arrive for the start of the school year. Union issues meant strikes over teacher qualifications, class sizes and teaching allotments. On the credit side, results in exams were very good, the Advisory Council and George James led the way in paving the tennis courts, the netball courts, laying of a hockey field and the Benbow St Oval. Benbow St was closed and became part of the school. Covered areas were built and efforts were made to build a gymnasium. When fund raising days failed to produce enough money, the Assembly Hall was developed as a gymnasium. Football, tennis and netball teams from the town began to use the outdoor facilities.

This was an era of challenge and questions: Vietnam, anti war marches, questioning of values, questioning of courses, questioning of authority. This is what students were growing up with.

Mr. McGregor set up the Duke of Edinburgh Award in 1974; in the first year 30 boys participated. By 1981, the group was larger and included girls. Students were trained to plan a three day hike without staff in the Grampians or Mt. Cole. Camps and excursions developed; Wyperfeld, Halls Gap, Tasmania and a school band started. George James left at the end of the year to take charge of Geelong High School. As well as running an ever changing school, he was an important figure at Lawn Tennis where he won many premierships. His kicking serve is well remembered. This was also the year that Mary Hickey retired after a long time as Assistant Principal and Headmistress. Her wise counsel was life changing for many people.

Ararat Technical School

From the beginning, the school stamped its mark: a new science course, ASEP; core subjects were English, Social Studies, Art, Maths, Science and Business Studies. TAFE programs and apprenticeship courses were run at night. Pre Driver, Careers and reading assistance were some of the extra activities. The pastoral care program had 11 groups made up from forms one to four. The school farm was developed to allow students to work in horticulture and run livestock.

The school was formally opened in 1975 by the Assistant Minister for Education, Mr Brian Dixon, well known as the wingman in many Melbourne Premierships. Three years later, Mr Wally Grubb arrived as Principal, and Mr Maple became Vice Principal, a position he held for 12 years. Three steps were taken immediately: a cadet corps was set up and the Neville Baldy Memorial Award was presented for the top student in Applied Science. Mr Baldy was an outstanding member of the A.T.S. Council. In 1979, the school became Co-educational with 32 girls enrolled and Textiles, Typing and Home Economics introduced into the curriculum. Girls joined the cadet corps.

An enormous amount of work was done on the school grounds. With the help of Parents and Friends, staff, students and community, the "swamp" was transformed; tennis courts, oval, covered area and garden. The school received the Golden Gateway Prize for the best Commercial and Industrial Garden.

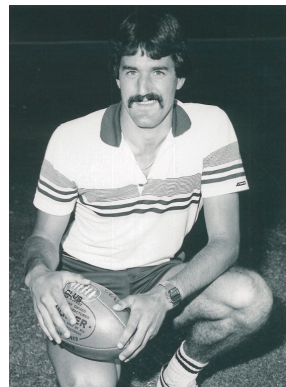
By 1981, there was a range of courses at Year 12: H.S.C., Pre Employment, T12. Morale was high and nowhere was this better illustrated than in the success of the sporting teams, particularly Athletics and distance running. Inspired by Kevin Maple and the McCullaghs, A.T.S. began a powerful few years in GSSSA. Mr. Grubb retired in 1982.

Michael Spalding

Born 1960

Ararat High School 1973 - 1978

Teacher and coordinator Ararat College



After attending Ararat High School Michael furthered his studies at Ballarat College of Advanced Education (Physical Education course)

The Spalding family have played an integral role in the life of Ararat High School, as students, teachers and parents. Current Physical Education teacher Michael holds the unique position of having taught on the staff with his mother Val. Michael commenced his teaching career at Casterton High School, but secured a compassionate transfer to Ararat, in order to continue his football and cricket commitments. Michael feels strongly about contributing to the lives of people he knows and he has been both teacher and mentor in his working life as well as through his sporting achievements.

Michael's contribution to the sporting life of the school is legendary and similarly he has committed himself to community projects in Ararat through his association with sport. He is a Life Member of Ararat Football Club, having played over 300 club games from 1978-1997. He coached at the club and from 1992 he has undertaken the role of Club Historian. He is a Life member of St.Andrews Cricket Club and over the years has been involved in many sports: Basketball, Badminton, Volleyball, and Table Tennis.

Michael considers a sense of place and history to be extremely important and he hopes that his research and collation of sporting memorabilia will provide a legacy for the next generation to value. He has found it extremely interesting to discover the family connections and historical background of players and families connected with Ararat Football Club.

Graeme Ian Foster

Born 1963

Ararat High School 1975 - 1979

Local Businessman



Graeme became involved in Music during his school years, introducing him to his years of involvement in bands.

In 1980, he joined the staff of Fosters Mensland as a fourth generation salesman. He is now the owner/ operator of the store, as well as operating a similar business in Stawell. He has also developed a partnership with Embroidability, a disability service.

Graeme has been a member of the Hospital Board for 8 years, being President for 3 years. In addition he is a member and past president of the local business association. He is also a past President of the City Band.

Graeme has always been involved in sport, particularly Squash and Cricket where he played in A Grade. He played football for Caley's Football Club and also endured the mighty Murray to Boyne bike ride over several years. Graeme is married to Alanna and has 2 sons, Tom and John, and a daughter Amy.

Janine Adams

Born	1961
Ararat High School	1974 - 1979
Ararat College Assistant Principal	
School Laboratory Technician	1981 - 2004
Ararat College Science Teacher	2005 - 2007
Leading Teacher	2008 - 2011
Assistant Principal	2012 - present
President Ararat Netball Association	1990 - present
Coordinator of Ararat College 100th Celebrations	



“A good school is both one for which people are inspired to work, and one which provides opportunities for the worker. Ararat College is a good school.”

Janine has always loved the school environment. She can clearly remember her school days at Ararat West and Ararat High School. “I am grateful to the amazing teachers I experienced during the 70's; it was not unusual to have 15 new teachers arrive and leave each year.” This must have made running a school extremely difficult but as a student she did not pick up on it. In Form 1 Science Geoff Shanks was her teacher, she can remember going to the Town Hall and watching him play Professor Higgins opposite Jan Park as Eliza Doolittle. It still remains one of her favourite Ararat Musical Comedies. Geoff Parkinson was her Mathematics teacher in Years 7, 10 and 12. “He was an amazing teacher whose neatness of board notes was unsurpassed by any other teacher”. In her student days and work life as a laboratory technician at Ararat High School, Ian McGregor was a living legend. He inspired his students to achieve their best and no one was ever game enough to not complete set homework or be late to class! She will always treasure the memories of Ian breaking into song in an attempt to get his students to memorise key facts. As lab technician she was allowed to get involved in all aspects of the school program and was science coordinator, school council representative, secretary of staff association and house mistress of Pyrenees. Janine has been involved in all school productions since they started in 1984 either in the lighting box or the twelve years she was in charge of costumes.

Ex colleagues Rob Newton and Gary Allen encouraged her to apply for a new course at Ballarat University in 2004 for which she is eternally grateful as it was the push she needed. Janine did a double degree at Ballarat University completing a four year course in three years. She joined the Golden Keys Honour Society with results of 20 high distinctions and 4 distinctions. She was determined not to fail! “I could not have completed the course without the support of friends and family and I particularly would like to thank my form 6 English teacher Rick Thomas and fellow Collingwood supporter who not only widened reading choices with the novels studied but also proof read university work.” Janine began teaching at Ararat College in 2005, became a Leading Teacher in 2008 and Assistant Principal in 2012. She has enjoyed all the challenges the different roles have given her.

Ararat High School has undergone some amazing changes over time. It amalgamated with Ararat Technical School to become a junior site and then the two sites consolidated back onto one. In all the changes she has been impressed by the dedication of teaching and non teaching staff to providing quality classroom teaching but also a wide range of extra-curricular activities that students enjoy: camps, excursions, school plays, and sporting events. Janine is forever thankful for the opportunities she has been given at Ararat College. Nihil Sine Labore.

James Dunn

Born 1962
Ararat High School 1974 - 1979
National TV and Radio Finance Commentator



James (then known as Jamie) completed HSC at Ararat High School in 1979, and moved on to Melbourne University, where he gained a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Letters. While at Ararat High School, James was a keen cricketer - representing High School Cricket Club in the Grampians Cricket Association - and footballer, playing for Tatyoon and Ararat Football Clubs. After leaving university James worked at *BRW* magazine and *The Australian* newspaper, and was founding editor of *Shares* magazine in 1996. James' book *Share Investing for Dummies* has been in print since 2002 and is into its third edition. James has been a freelance finance and sport journalist since 2001, and appears regularly on national TV and radio as a finance commentator, and is also a regular public speaker. James is a fellow of Leadership Victoria's Williamson Community Leadership Program. In 1984, James won two BMWs on *Sale of the Century*, leaving undefeated after six games. James is married to Jane and they have two children, Eliza and Harry.

Delwyn Graham

Born 1961
Ararat High School 1974 - 1978
Manager Royal Children's Hospital Early Learning Service



A passion for the child care industry, which was born during school days of volunteering at the Ararat Child Care Centre has taken Delwyn Graham to the top of her field. As manager of the Royal Children's Hospital Early Learning, Delwyn was awarded the 2012 Royal Children's Hospital Chairman's Medal, which is the highest honour a staff or team member can be nominated for by their peers and recognises excellence, innovation and a strong commitment to the RCH values. Now manager of RCH Early Learning, Delwyn was responsible for opening the first child care service at the Royal Children's Hospital 18 years ago and has overseen the substantial growth of the centre over the years. More recently she has also overseen the development of the state of the art facility at the new Royal Children's Hospital, which cares for the children of staff of RCH.

Delwyn was born in Ararat and attended Ararat West Primary School and Ararat High School before moving on to Melbourne to study child care and then university to undertake a Bachelor of Education in Early Childhood, along with Management and Leadership training. When she was at high school she used to go to the Ararat Child Care Centre, with Betty Flavell, after school and in holidays to help out. It was a passion from a very early age. Delwyn first began work at the RCH as an educational play therapist, and recognised at that time that there was a lack of child care facilities for staff at the RCH. Knowing that a centre was in the pipeline, Delwyn set about gaining experience in working in child care centres away from RCH, before returning to open the doors as the co-ordinator of Victoria's first work-based child care centre in January 1995. Delwyn has spent the past three years involved in designing and setting up the Early Learning Centre in the new Royal Children's Hospital and now manages 35 staff with 120 children attending each day. Delwyn is still passionate about working with children and has fond memories of Ararat - she was a Golden Gateway Festival Queen - and often visits the region. Delwyn refers to Ararat as home.

Catherine Darbyshire

Born 1965
Ararat High School 1977 - 1982
Regional Director - Department of Justice



During Catherine's time at the Ararat High School she was President of the Student Representative Council. A highlight was a trip to Noumea in 1981 to further her studies in French. Catherine deferred her University placement to begin her training as a Psychiatric Nurse at the former Aradale Mental Hospital and Training Centre where she worked from 1983 to 1991. She left Aradale to work in disability services for five years, completing a Bachelor of Arts (Humanities and Social Science) at Monash University by distance. Catherine returned to psychiatric nursing in the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service from 1996 to 2004, working in both Horsham and Ballarat. She completed a Master of Child Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy degree at Monash University in 2009. Since 2004, Catherine has worked as a senior public servant firstly with the Department of Human Services and currently as Regional Director, Grampians Region with the Department of Justice (2009 to current time). Her current role has responsibility for the provision of a range of community based justice services including the management of Hopkins Correctional Centre and HM Prison Langi Kal Kal. She is passionate about the delivery of quality services to the public in rural Victoria. Catherine is married and is raising four teenage boys with her husband. She enjoys music, fitness and bird watching.

Andrew Eastick

Born 1967
Ararat Technical School 1979 - 1983
Builder Eastick Homes



Andrew has many memories of school, mainly concerning the strap and getting into trouble. He and his mate picked up most of the stones on the oval, helping to prepare the surface for sport. He remembers the need to survive assembly where shoes were to be clean or else. He returned to night school to do a VET course and became a B Grade welder. After school, life was not easy: he was devastated when he missed out on an apprenticeship, he peeled spuds for the fish and chip shop, he found labouring work and then joined VicRail for three years from the age of 18. When the VicRail depot closed, Andrew did an apprenticeship with Ararat Joinery, then Kin Henning. Having completed his course in Melbourne where he gained his builder's ticket with high marks, he became a domestic and commercial builder. At 26, Andrew's father died and work in Ararat came to a standstill – 1993. "No work, no money, can't feed the family". A tough time. Andrew went off shearing for three years. Back in Ararat, he worked as a carpenter at the Secondary College. In 2000, Andrew carried out the sub division of Scott's Rise and has built many Ararat houses since. A remarkable journey.

David Morgan

Born 1965

Ararat High School 1977 - 1982

Investment Banker



David graduated from Ararat High School in 1982. After spending some time travelling during the mid-1980's, David completed his studies at Monash university and joined the investment banking industry in 1990. David is currently based in Hong Kong where he is the executive director for client strategy at Nomura International (Japan's largest investment bank). Prior to that he was head of Asia Pacific research marketing for Bank of America Merrill Lynch (based in Hong Kong). In his 23 years in investment banking David has spent most of his career based in Tokyo, Singapore and Hong Kong with stints also in Melbourne and Sydney.

In his spare time David enjoys keeping fit and, whenever he gets the chance, doing periodic work as a drummer with local bands. David has completed several ironman distance triathlons and also a 250km ultra marathon in the Gobi desert. In the early 1980's, David was head percussionist with the Victorian State Youth band and also played drums with various rock bands in Melbourne and later in Osaka, Japan. For the record, David is available should anybody be looking for a middle aged white drummer in Hong Kong? David is married and has two university aged children, both of whom are currently studying in Sydney. He is also fluent in Japanese, Malay and Indonesian languages and is proficient enough in Cantonese to get himself into trouble (but not always out of trouble). David also has post graduate qualifications in financial planning.

Sally Hinchliffe (nee Fenton)

Born 1966

Ararat High School 1979 - 1984

Certified Practising Accountant

Ararat High School Dux 1984



The Fentons dominated distance running at the school, Sally for the girls and her brother David in the boys. Accounting was already Sally's strength at school: inspired by her accounting teacher, Murray Williamson, Sally went on to complete the Bachelor of Business at the Ballarat College of Advanced Education.

She worked in public practice in Ballarat with HMG Accounting before returning to Ararat to open up a branch office. In 2005 in the wake of mergers and takeovers of the firm, and after almost 20 years of employment, Sally bought the Ararat practice. The business currently employs a staff of nine and looks after about 3000 clients scattered throughout Australia, especially Kununurra, and overseas as far away as the U.K. Sally has a remarkable skill of simultaneously interviewing a client, taking notes with one hand and using the calculator with the other hand.

Sally is married to Greg and has two daughters, Bec and Dani who currently attend Ararat College.

Megan Park

Born 1968

Ararat High School 1980 - 1985

Fashion Designer and businesswoman



Focused on her love of creating clothing from a very early age Megan actually chose Ararat High School for its superior needlework department! Encouraged by her HSC art teacher Sheryl Lugg, Megan gained admission into RMIT to study fashion design at a time when it was the only degree course of its kind in the country.

Upon completion, Megan worked as a designer within the Australian fashion industry for 3 years before moving to London to further her career abroad. For six years Megan worked between London and Kolkata, as a freelance designer consulting to an Indian textiles company before launching her own self-titled fashion label MEGAN PARK. Megan established the brand within the International market selling into some of the most reputed stores worldwide and remained in London for a further seven years before returning to Melbourne in 2005 to start a family. Megan continues to work between India and Melbourne creating her collection of designer womenswear and accessories that are shown each season as part of the International fashion calendar in Tokyo, Milan, New York, London and Paris. Not being a royalist herself Megan smiles at the memory of reading an article about the British Vogue editor's choice of wearing her collection to meet the Queen on International Women's Day - a big leap from the Ararat High sewing room!.

Donna Faneco

Born 1967

Ararat Technical School 1980 - 1985

Champion Golfer and Accountant



Prominent current Ararat golfer Stuart Muller, a fellow student in the same year as Donna, recalls Donna's nickname at school was 'Wonder Woman'. Donna finished her 12 years of Ararat education at the Ararat Tech School in 1985. 1985 was also the year that Donna, at just age 17 and then 18, became the hottest female golfer in Australia, achieving Victorian Junior (under 21) champion, South Australian Junior champion, Queensland Junior champion, Runner up Australian Amateur Senior champion, Member of the Australian junior team to play in Canada, and Member of the Australian junior team to play in New Zealand.

In 1986 Donna continued her prominence in Australian golf and her performances included losing the Victorian Amateur Championship on the 37th hole. In the late 1980s she chose a 'normal' life. Just like that she was gone! Her brother Glenn was unable to continue to prosper in his private life on the back of having his sister's name and pictures constantly in the Herald Sun and The Age. Donna had tremendous support from her father, Ararat South Store shopkeeper Roy Faneco who drove her everywhere when she was taking regional and metropolitan events by storm between the ages of 12 and 16. Donna Faneco is now Donna Fraser, wife of teacher for disadvantaged adolescents, Greg, living by the sea in Torquay and mother of 15 year old Beth and 12 year old Ben.

Dean Pinniger

Born 1969

Ararat Technical School 1982 - 1986

General Manager AME Systems



Dean began employment with Carthew and Travaglini as an Electrical Harness Trainee in 1987 and completed this in 1988. He worked in the Manufacturing and Engineering departments and with Packard CTA joint venture as a methods engineer. With the demise of Packard CTA he took on the role of quality manager at AME Systems in 1992 and wrote the quality system to successfully gain ISO accreditation. In 1996 Dean became Production Manager and held that position until leaving the business in 2007.

He moved with his wife and children to Kerang in northern Victoria as Operations Manager of Dunstan Farmers Engineering, a manufacturer of bulk grain handling equipment. He held this position for three years and in that time helped to diversify the business into mining and other areas and managed triple growth of sales through that period.

Dean returned to Ararat and AME Systems with his family in 2010 and was employed Manager Business Improvement Systems. In August 2011 he was successful in becoming the General Manager and currently holds this position. He works closely with the other Managers and staff of the business to make AME Systems a *Capable, Reliable and Sustainable* business. They are looking now to diversify and grow the business both nationally and internationally whilst maintain the existing presence in Ararat.

Dean enjoys time with family and friends, travel and fishing and looks forward to being a member of the Ararat community for years to come.



1983 – 1992

Ararat High School

Alan Whatley was Principal in 1982—1983. Enrolments had dropped to 320 students mostly girls in 1983. He instituted a School Review of all areas, speech night was restored. He established a Trust with the Ararat Netball Association and Caledonian Football Club and the netball courts; the pavillion and Caledonian Football Club Rooms were built. After two years he moved back to Castlemaine High School. In two brief years under the dynamic leadership of Alan Whatley, parents' confidence in the High School was restored and year 7 enrolments for 1984 were again over 100.

Frank Kitchen (Principal) and Bob Saunder (Assistant Principal) were appointed in 1984. The school was led by two Principals who were in their early 40s, very keen and energetic. Together they provided a clear direction for the school. A weekly newsletter was introduced to inform parents.

Student numbers were growing but the gender balance was still over 60% female and there was a greater readiness to study. A number of families went through the school who were keen on learning. There were excellent results at the VCE level and many students successfully continued into further study and training.

There was a talented teaching staff, most under 40 years, a number with Honours degrees and the quality of teaching was of a very high standard. With increased enrolments, a number of gifted teachers joined the staff and enriched the program. Parents perceived the High School was going places and the enrolments rose accordingly which allowed for expansion of the curriculum.

The school developed a strong music programme: solos' night, bands and an annual musical. The first musical was 'Happy Daze': a large team of staff were involved to train singers, teach acting and organise sets. Bryan Kennedy directed this play and many others while a band supplied the music. The school was fortunate that in the first year Darrell Madex arrived, happy to sing and set the standard for the future. Mr. Spalding is well remembered for his mighty paunch in the role of The Fonz. John Mawson and Rob Smith began writing musicals with Ros Jennings composing the music. *Charades* was a favorite.

In sport, students in Year 12 led the way and developed a high standard at Athletics particularly, leading to success at GSSSA and in state championships. Three cross country teams reached the state championships in Melbourne in 1993. School camps were established at every year level and senior students continued to have the opportunity to join the Duke of Edinburgh program.

The school benefited over this time with a number of building projects which worked in stages through the whole campus creating much better facilities. The school was transformed as these projects took place. Financial support from the Region and the Department of Education was appreciated.

Ararat Technical School

Mr Adrian Johnson returned to the school as Principal in 1983. This was his second visit, having been vice principal when the school first started. Within a year, he had his first big challenge: a fire in the Science Graphics wing. The school community rallied round and the wing was rebuilt. By 1987 in a further development, the Ballarat School of Mines established a campus at the school, opening a range of opportunities for the community. In 1989, the school celebrated its 21st anniversary, a capsule was placed near the flagpole and V.C.E. units were introduced.

The camps programme was extended further with multilevel camps in Interest areas such as sailing, snow skiing and bush walking joining the year level camps and the Central Australian tour. Sporting success continued; in 1983 both boys and girls teams won the GSSSA in Athletics, Swimming and Cross Country. Many students qualified for state level in these sports, with 24 competing in Athletics in 1984. Gold medals were achieved in individual and relay events across the decade. In 1986 the boys won their fourth GSSSA championship in Athletics.

(left - Ararat Technical school)

Planning and Amalgamation

The Department of Education was constantly raising the question of amalgamating the High School and the Technical School. There were many discussions and meetings which absorbed a lot of time and energy at School Council and created a tension. The schools started to share the curriculum which meant that senior students were bussed to and from the Technical School. Finally joint school council meetings were held with equal representation from both councils and chaired by a Senior Officer of the Department of Education. While there was a willingness to cooperate, it was a demanding time working through many details. The schools were fortunate to have two Council Presidents, Leonie Foster and Carol Jackson, who gave a prodigious amount of their time and worked through the issues with good will.

Finally the schools were amalgamated to form Ararat Secondary College. The Ararat School Council held out until they got the best deal possible which was a very generous staffing and some grants for building improvements.

The Ararat Secondary College started operation on two campuses in 1992 with over 700 students and nearly 90 staff. Senior School Students years 10 to 12 were located at the Technical School and the Middle School was located at the High School site.

Frank Kitchen was appointed College Principal. Kevin Maple was principal of the Senior School and Bob Saunder Principal of the Middle School. Adrian Johnson, Principal of the Technical School took an acting Principal position in Echuca until his retirement.

Senior students particularly enjoyed having a senior campus. There was a lot of travel for staff and there were huge adjustments for staff to make which was not easy but there was a lot of good will and the willingness to get things working.

Again there were considerable building improvements to meet the needs of the new College.

Jason Roberts

Born 1968

Ararat Technical School 1983 - 1986

Film-maker and Environmentalist



Jason Roberts is an award winning filmmaker, polar expert, leading authority on Polar Bears and a dedicated environmentalist. He has devoted over two decades of his life to both Arctic and Antarctic, working with the production of natural history films specialising in the polar regions. Recent films included, *Frozen Planet*, *Planet Earth*, *The Reindeer Girls*, *Spy on the Ice* and *The Polar Bear Family & Me*.

He Commenced studies at Ararat Technical School in 1983 when his parents moved to Ararat. He gained many practical skills that would be put to good use in later life exploring the polar regions '*born and bred on the land, can turn my hands to anything*' is a favourite saying of his. After completing schooling and relocating to Melbourne he accomplished the position on the Australian Stock Exchange as senior trader at a record young age. However, in 1989 he took a 'period' free to try to fill the young 'explorers' virus. A few weeks led into adventures around the globe and a longer period residing in Sámi land (Lapland) Norway. He then relocated to the high arctic community of Longyearbyen, on the Svalbard archipelago, (Spitsbergen) where he has been a resident for over twenty years. "Living in the world's northern most community changes your perspectives in life". Prior to filmmaking he worked for research institutes doing field studies on a number of projects concerning our polar regions. An experienced ice diver, he has worked extensively as a rescue diver and is an accomplished sea kayaker and mountaineer. Jason has also worked on many Hollywood feature films that require a frozen background, such as *Die Another Day* (#20 in the Bond series), *Eight Below*, *The Golden Compass*, and many others.

A winner of the prestigious 'Panda' award for best natural Behaviour program with *Shadow on the Ice - The Polar Bear*. Through the production services company, *Jason Roberts productions*, Jason promotes awareness of our world's natural history.

"Some days I sit here on a floating iceberg and wonder what started this journey, Ararat to both ends of the earth, the Arctic and Antarctica, and then I pinch myself and try never to forget the word "privileged"; privileged to have such a diverse and free childhood".



Dr Anne Smith

Born 1971

Ararat Technical School 1983 - 1988

Medical Educator



Anne attended Ararat technical School from 1983 to 1988. During that time she had many academic achievements including Dux of school in 1997. She graduated from Monash University with an MBBS in 1996 and worked for several years at Geelong Hospital as a resident medical officer, completing a Diploma of Obstetrics during that time. Anne took a career sabbatical to focus on family for several years, proud mum to four children. She contributed to the community over that time doing volunteer work for local children's organisations.

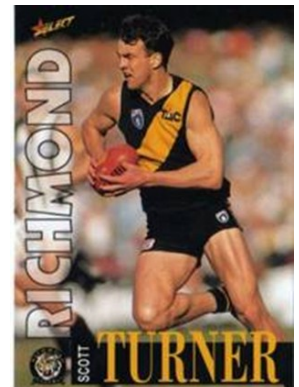
Since 2010 she has been involved in the IMMERSe program for Deakin University, firstly as Medical Educator and now as Acting Director. IMMERSe is a clinical school of the School of Medicine and places third year medical students in rural general practices for the entire third year of their training. The aim of the program is to expose students to rural medical life with the hope that they will return to a rural area to practise after graduation. Deakin University's school of medicine was established with an aim to reduce the rural medical workforce shortage and the IMMERSe program is a key part of that strategy. The program has students placed in several towns in south west Victoria, including two each year in Ararat. In four years of the program, it has already given 55 medical students a year in a rural town. In 2012 Anne presented details of the program to the Rendezvous 2012 international conference in Thunder Bay Canada. She is currently completing a graduate certificate of clinical education through Flinders University with intentions to convert to a Masters.

Scott Turner

Born 1970

Ararat Technical School 1983 - 1987

AFL Footballer



Scott Turner is an Ararat local, born and bred. He played junior football with the Warriors (100 plus games) in Ararat before representing the region in Wimmera Schoolboys and Victorian Country sides. He also represented the school in Athletics and Swimming. Scott got his big break in 1987 when he signed and trained with Collingwood, playing a few games in the under 19 competition. A transfer to Melbourne in 1988 saw a few games in Reserves, under 19's and the Pre-season Cup, but a back injury resulted in Scott being delisted 1989. Scott was drafted by Richmond mid-1990, and played his first senior game in 1991 gaining the title of Best first year player for Richmond Football Club. Scott finished his career with Richmond in 2000 with 144 games, 36 goals and 3 finals appearances under his belt. He has since coached Warrnambool Football Club from 2001-2003 seeing them to 2 Premierships, playing on until 2006. He has finished the full circuit, coaching and playing back with Ararat from 2008-2012.

Back in Ararat, Scott has worked five years in an employment Agency and now is with Gasons'. He enjoys his golf and basketball.

Shane Kelly

Born 1972

Ararat Technical School 1984 - 1988

Olympian and World Champion Cyclist

Olympic Games: 1 Silver Barcelona 1992
2 bronze Sydney 2000 and Athens 2004

Commonwealth Games: 2 Gold Canada 1994 and Kuala Lumpur 1998
1 Bronze Melbourne 2006

World Championships : 4 Gold 5 Silver and 5 Bronze

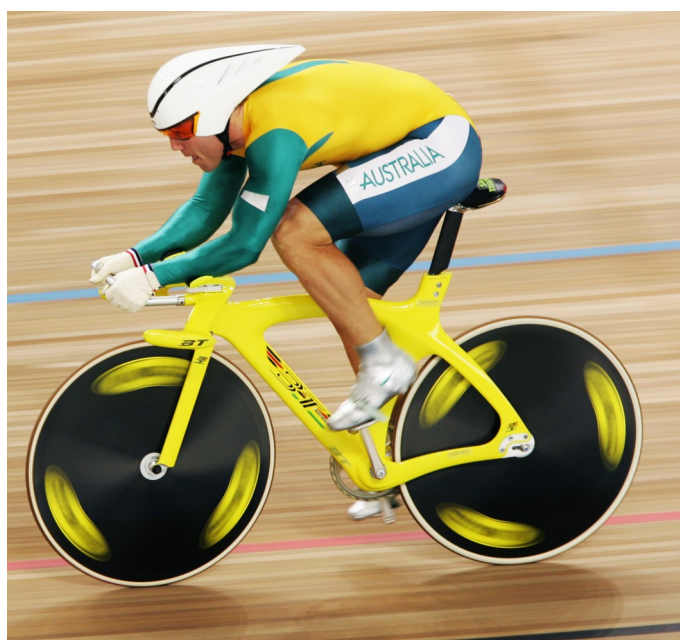


One of Australia's greatest cyclists, Shane Kelly was carried onto a cycling track at Ararat in his father's arms when he was only a couple of months old. Born into a family of keen sportspeople, he first got onto a bike at the ripe age of four, competing in events around the recreation reserve Kokoda Park. Rising from the junior ranks with his focus on representing his country, Kelly made international headlines when he claimed a silver medal in the 1000m time trial at the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona. This was the beginning of a stellar International career spanning an amazing two decades. Kelly competed in 5 Olympic Games, 3 Commonwealth Games, 14 World Championships and held a top three world ranking for an incredible 14 years in succession. His greatest achievement was at the 1995 World Championships where he won gold in the 1km time trial and in doing so smashed the World Record, earning the nickname "Minuteman"!

1996 was a year of bitter disappointment when almost certain victory at the Olympic Games in Atlanta was dashed in a second when his foot pulled from the pedal at the start of the race. However he went on to win even greater admiration from his fans by taking the mishap in his stride and vowing to carry on and take out back-to-back world championships. Shane refocused four weeks later to win two gold medals in the 1996 World Championships, taking out the 1000m time trial for the second consecutive year and winning the Team Sprint event with a World Record time!

During Shane's time at Ararat Technical School he excelled at athletics, winning local, district zone and State Championships in both 4 x 100m relay and discus. He set records for discus. Shane also represented the school at football, squash and tennis, but it was cycling that he took a shining to during those years. He won many Western District, Country, State and National Championships in the under 14 and under 16 age category.

His greatest memories from his secondary school days are the life long mates he made.



Darrell Madex

Born 1966

Ararat High School 1984

Specialist Case Worker Department of Justice



Darrell attended Ararat High School in 1982. During his time at Ararat High School he represented the school in a wide range of sporting events. He was involved in the school production and was the first student to perform a singing role in a school play. His working career began at the Ararat Railways. Starting as a number taker he worked his way through the positions of leading shunter, station assistant, and relieving station master over a nine year period. Following the demise of the Ararat Railway Station, he then returned to study, undertaking a health and fitness instructor's course at SMB university. He worked in the fitness industry as a swimming and fitness instructor before gaining employment as a prison officer where he quickly gained the position of recreational officer, a position which he held for over 10 years. During this time he created and held the role of state recreational team leader for the prison industry. Darrell is currently working as a Specialist Case Worker within the department of justice. Darrell also worked part time as manager of the Ararat Entertainment Centre.

While living in Ararat Darrell has been heavily involved in the sporting community as both a player and a senior football coach in four different leagues. Darrell is well known throughout the region as an accomplished singer song writer having his original material played over radio and supporting many local charity events. He performs regularly for the senior citizens which he finds very rewarding. He has been involved in several committees and volunteer work ranging from CFA, RSL, school and kindergarten, jailhouse rock festival, and charities raising funds for local families and community projects. Darrell sees his family as his greatest achievement.

Colleen White (nee Ryan)

Born 1971

Ararat High School 1984 - 1989

Director Corporate Strategy, Risk & Governance.

Ararat Rural City



Colleen White was a member of the Student Representative Council (SRC) whilst at the school and represented Ararat High School in a number of sporting areas including Basketball, Netball and Swimming at regional level. She was awarded the James Fairnie Scholarship, successfully completed the Duke of Edinburgh course and participated in a number of School Productions. Colleen was also a participant in the one and only Debutante Ball organised by the school in it's 75th Jubilee year.

After successfully completing Year 12 Colleen commenced a Bachelor of Commerce at the University of Ballarat. Colleen left full time tertiary studies in 1990 to return to Ararat for a job at the then City of Ararat. Over the past 23 years Colleen has continued to complete tertiary studies part time including Diplomas and Advanced Diplomas in Business Management, Human Resource Management and Business Excellence and has progressed within the organisation (now the Ararat Rural City Council) from roles including administration, Finance Officer, Manager Organisational Development, Manager People & Culture to her current role of Director Corporate Strategy, Risk & Governance.

Colleen and her family are committed to the Ararat community and she was a founding member of the Ararat Mothers Day Classic, a fun run/walk event held in Ararat each Mothers Day raising thousands of dollars for breast cancer research. She is also a Director on the Willaura/Lake Bolac Financial Services Limited Board (Bendigo Community Bank).

Bronwen Marshall

Born 1970
Ararat High School 1983 - 1988
National Sales Manager Roche Pharmaceuticals



During her time at Ararat High, Bronwen enjoyed lots of sporting pursuits, and represented the school in many sporting activities including athletics, netball and cross-country. Bronwen was an active member of the SRC, becoming president in her final year at Ararat High. But it was her passion for science and biology that developed during her time at AHS that really set her on her future path. After leaving AHS, Bronwen studied Microbiology and Biotechnology at Melbourne University, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree with honors in 1992. Shortly after graduating, Bronwen joined the Healthcare Industry as a sales representative for Eli Lilly. In 1995 Bronwen moved to the company she still works for today, Roche Pharmaceuticals. During her time at Roche in Australia, Bronwen held 8 different positions ranging from Sales Representative, Group Product Manager, Sales Manager, National Training & Development Manager and most recently, National Sales Manager. Earlier this year, Bronwen and her husband Jamie and their two kids (Jock & Marley) set off on their great American adventure when Bronwen accepted a position in another Roche affiliate – Genentech Inc. based in San Francisco. Bronwen continues to proudly live the AHS motto of “Nothing without work”

Andrew Dagleish

Born 1969
Ararat Technical School 1985 - 1986
Primary School Teacher
1990 Began teaching Skene Street Stawell,
1995 Appointed Principal Willaura Primary School (his original School)
1999 Principal of Ararat West Primary School
2009 Manager Grampians Regional and Melbourne Office (Building Education Revolution)
2012 Principal of Stawell Primary School



Andrew began school at Willaura Primary School, before moving to Wickliffe PS which is no longer open. He attended Lake Bolac High School before transferring to Ararat Technical School to complete year 11 and 12 in 1985 and 1986. He met his wife Jan (Past SRC captain) in Year 11 when the High School and Technical School shared classes to ensure curriculum breadth. He is married and settled in Ararat, with two children, Lauchlan and Madison, attended/attending Ararat College.

Andrew's teaching began with a round at Ararat West Primary School with Peter Gemmola as supervising teacher. During Andrew's career he was involved in many programs which included focussing on building high performing teams of teachers, the role of education in rural schools and importance of connections to community. Andrew also encouraged a strong literacy and numeracy focus incorporating ICT skills and use of this to engage community, students and families. He also developed in students a global understanding of their world- previous examples include sister school relationship - Hirano PS. This included video conferencing on a regular basis between the schools to share culture and the development of future leaders. This led to Andrew's involvement in 2006 in a leadership program at Singapore's National Institute of Education. He also took the Ararat West teaching staff across to visit NIE in Singapore to look at innovation in Singapore Schools.

Andrew is passionate about the role our local schools play in continuing to improve outcomes for students in an increasingly complex world. Andrew has been a keen sportsman, especially as an opening batsman for St Andrews.

Gavin Vearing

Born 1972
Ararat High School 1984 - 1989

Professional Golfer

1989 Equal 1st in Australian Schoolboys Championship
1992 Captain of Victorian Junior Team



Gavin grew up at Maroona and attended Ararat High School for six years. He represented the school in many events including Athletics and Golf. He was selected to represent Victoria in the Australian Schoolboys Golf Championships in 1988 -1989. Gavin won the Victorian Schoolboys' Championship in 1989 and finished tied for first at the Australian Schoolboys Championship in Canberra in the same year.

After leaving school, Gavin moved to Melbourne and spent four years with the Victorian Institute of Sport. He joined the professional golfing ranks in 1996. He then spent six years playing golf throughout Australia, Asia, Canada, America and the U.K. Some of Gavin's highlights include playing four Australian Opens, finishing top ten in three Victorian Opens and being a member of the Victorian State team for four years. When you enter the Victoria Golf Club, look at the honour boards and you will find Gavin's amazing round of 61 – 11 under par! Gavin now shares his time between work on the rigs in W.A. and Bass Strait and coaching golf.

David Gilson

Born 1964
Ararat High School 1987 - 1989

Outdoor Education



"Ask your teacher to take you outside" David Gilson moved around a lot as a kid, but ended up finishing secondary schooling at Ararat High school in 1989. The three years he spent at the school had a significant and lasting influence on his life. The Duke of Edinburgh program at the school was absolutely fantastic, as were many of the teachers, the sporting experiences, the school productions and the opportunities for student representation and leadership. Dave was the school captain in 1989. Dave's love of outdoor adventures and education as well as dedication to community service was seeded as he completed the Gold Award that same year.

On leaving Ararat High School Dave completed his undergraduate degree and post graduate diplomas in Education and Outdoor Education in 1995. At this time Dave stumbled upon a place called Wollangarra. *An independent, non-profit outdoor education centre providing a small but vital step towards a healthier environment, a stronger community and happier young people*, Wollangarra defined his future. Dave has been leading teams and managing programs for not-for-profit community organisations and alternative education centres ever since. Notable among these are the Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers, The Collingwood Children's Farm, Leeuwin Ocean Adventure Foundation and Typo Station. Dave gave 6 years of passionate service developing Typo Station's unique experiential life-skills and alternate education program, for young men who are struggling at school or home. In 2006, Dave set off working and adventuring around Australia before marrying Kate Hand in a Canoe on the Cobungra River. Dave returned home to the King Valley in NE Victoria in 2007 to teach at the Community Learning Centre, an alternative education initiative of Wangaratta High School. From their bush home -'Yangoora' - Kate and Dave have given birth to Wirra and Inanay, and have taken great joy in taking them bushwalking, snow camping and canoe touring before they were out of nappies. David recently transferred schools to the newly developing 15 Mile Creek campus of Bogong Outdoor Education Centre where he teaches p-12 students about the environment and their personal and collective potential to make a more sustainable future. He does all of this outdoor.

Sam Davies

Born 1972
Ararat High School 1985 - 1990

Area General Manger InterContinental Hotels Group

1994 Bachelor of Business Degree in Catering and Hotel Management at Victoria University
2009 General Manager Holiday Inn Singapore Atrium
2013 Area General Manager Singapore



At school, Sam was involved in lots of sport including swimming and athletics. He participated in school plays and Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Since graduation, Sam has worked with InterContinental Hotels Group. He has gained experience in over 15 hotels in Melbourne, Ayers Rock Resort - Yulara (Uluru), Canberra, Sydney and Darwin. He held General Manager roles in hotels from the age of 28 to become one of the youngest General Managers in the company. In 2009, he moved to Singapore in 2009 as General Manager for the 515 room Holiday Inn Singapore Atrium. Now as Area General Manger InterContinental Hotels Group Singapore, he oversees the InterContinental Singapore, Crowne Plaza Changi Airport, Holiday Inn Singapore Atrium and Holiday Inn Singapore Orchard City Centre. These 4 hotels have over 1500 accommodation rooms, over 30 conference and event spaces, 10 restaurants and over 1200 employees. He was chosen to attend and complete the Executive General Managers Program at Cornell Univeristy, Ithaca New York in 2012. InterContinental Hotels Group is the largest hotel company in the world by number of rooms and has over 4800 hotels globally. Currently Sam is a board member of the Singapore River One Organisation and sitting committee member on various government and industry working groups for manpower education and tourism challenges. Sam currently lives in Singapore with his wife Sally and their two children Toby and Olivia.

Megan Shea (nee Holz)

Born 1972
Ararat High School 1985 - 1990
Secondary School Teacher

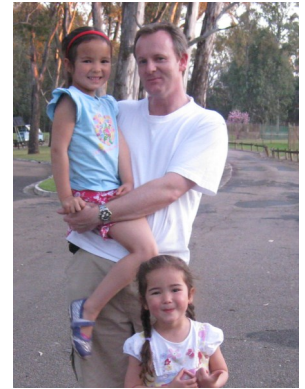


Megan Shea grew up in Ararat and attended Ararat High School. It was here that she developed a love for sport and leadership. She was Vice President of the SRC and also a Vice Captain of her sporting house. She was also an enthusiastic participant in many school productions. She represented the school in swimming, athletics, netball and basketball and also represented the school at the Victorian State Basketball Finals. It was during her later school years that she decided to focus more on netball and was selected for the Victorian Under 17 State Netball Squad.

After Year 12 she went on to study Physical Education (Science) in Ballarat where she also represented the University in netball as well as travelling home to play A grade for Ararat and represent the Wimmera Mallee Region. Megan won many Ararat Advertiser Sports Star Awards for her achievements in netball and captained the Wimmera Mallee Team to a State Title and also won 'Player of the Series' in 1996. She went on to be selected in two Victorian Country Netball Squads. Megan also represented the Central Highlands in netball. She has been awarded a Life Membership for the Ararat Football & Netball Club and is a member of the Wimmera Netball Association 200 club. Megan has played 375 A Grade games, 36 B Grade games and 34 junior games for Ararat. Megan has coached various netball teams for Ararat (including 3 A Grade premierships and 3 A Grade runners up) and is currently coaching her eldest daughter in the 13 & Under. After graduating from University Megan taught at Ararat Community College (formally Ararat High & Ararat Technical School) for five years before moving across to Marian College of Ararat where she has been since 2000. She is married and lives on a farm on the outskirts of Ararat and has 3 children.

Rob Curtis

Born 1973
Ararat Technical School 1986 - 1991
Geologist



Rob attended Ararat Technical School from 1986 to 1991. School involved long bus rides (an hour to and from home each day), but was memorable for the great friends (and teachers) in his year, which was split into three classes – Blue, Red and Green. He had the good fortune to have Messrs. Robinson, Warren and Calvird point him in the right direction of earth sciences. Year 12 saw the schools combine officially, good times continue but study went up a notch and he still has nightmares about chemistry and maths exams (thanks Mr McGregor, in particular). No English nightmares, however.

In 1992 Rob commenced studying geology at the University of Ballarat (the old School of Mines) and graduated with honours in 1995. This led him into a career as a geologist in the mining industry, when he was recruited by CRA (now Rio Tinto) in 1996. He spent 2 years in Papua New Guinea followed by 2 years in Laos (where he met his wife), then returned to Australia (Darwin and Perth) before returning “home” to Melbourne in 2003 to work with a company called Oxiana (now OZ Minerals). Rob left there nearly 2 years ago, to join a new private equity resources fund. “There’s a never a dull moment or lack of diversification in this industry.”

Adam Haddow

Born 1973
Ararat High School 1986 - 1991
Architect



School was a happy time for Adam, he enjoyed learning and he enjoyed being enveloped by friends and an environment where you knew everyone. Adam enjoyed an atmosphere that encouraged excellence, where being smart wasn't a curse. Often a singular academic focus is overplayed in assessing individuals potential. However he felt that his teachers placed as much emphasis on extra curricular activities as grades: where Chemistry was as important as Outdoor Education, where Biology could overlap with Drama and that a language of Music was as important as French. There was balance.

As Adam says: “To be honest I was a complete dork at school - I wasn't the smartest but I worked hard and believed that anything was achievable.” Adam remembers being shocked later in life when he realised he was never going to be an AFL player - perhaps this belief that anything was possible was instilled in a small town by a group of dedicated teachers and a mix of friends where judgement was not afforded. To this day his closest friends are those he grew up with. Independent of their life situations they are still there for each other. “Differences of youth fade while connections made when we were finding ourselves become all the more relevant.”

Melbourne University was a great adventure. He graduated with first class honors with a degree in Architecture. He is now a partner in an Architectural practice with 83 staff and calls Sydney home. Adam has won architectural awards and has built buildings he is incredibly proud of. He is married and has 5 godchildren who he enjoys spending time with. Adam is a Churchill Scholar and takes an active interest in the politics and social dimensions of creating better cities and places for people to call home. “In the end success is what you make it. I think that success is enjoying the day to day while striving for something bigger - for something that makes a difference.”

Susan Daly

Born 1974

Ararat High School 1987 - 1992

Web and Print Designer



After completing University, Susan began her working career as a Print Designer for a small advertising firm in Ballarat. Here she learnt the ropes in an industry setting – liaising with clients, interpreting design briefs and producing designs for logos and brochures for the “real” world. Susan then moved to Melbourne to explore an emerging facet of Design - working as a Graphical User Interface (GUI) Designer for a software development company – soon to be a victim of the notorious DotCom crash of the early 2000’s.

Working at the software development company proved to be a cornerstone in Susan’s design career. She revelled in the endless possibilities; opportunities and challenges presented by GUI Design and gained a new skill in Interface Coding. After a stint at a Government Research Centre as a senior Web & Print Designer, Susan and (her then Partner – now Husband) Glenn Hull started Discover Me Design in 2002. Discover Me provides Web Design & Development, Internet Marketing and Graphic Design services to a diverse client base including large businesses such as Bureau of Meteorology, Healthscope Pathology and Victoria University. Susan is the Lead Designer and Interface Developer at Discover Me and over-sees a small group of designers.

Susan's design philosophy and style is based on contemporary trends with a focus on establishing a successful balance between Form and Function. The digital industry is constantly changing and presenting new opportunities for learning – bring it

Amber Baiguerra (nee Daly)

Born 1974

Ararat High School 1987 - 1992

Professional Artist



Amber's love of drawing began in early childhood. Throughout her school years her parents enrolled her in a range of extra curricular activities that involved drawing and painting. At Ararat Secondary College Amber received encouragement from Art teacher Sheryl Lugg and was grateful for the many opportunities the school provided to be involved in art projects outside of the classroom and in the wider community. Further studies included a Bachelor of Arts (Major in Drawing) in 1995 followed by a Graduate Diploma of Education (Secondary) at ACU in 1998.

In 2005 Amber and her husband opened an art gallery in inner-city Melbourne which served as the springboard for her career as a full time professional artist. After 4 years of operating the gallery and showing the works of emerging artists, Amber and her husband relocated to the Mornington Peninsula where she currently continues her art practice.

Now represented by a commercial gallery in Melbourne, Amber regularly shows and sells work in group and solo exhibitions. Recently her work has been featured in design magazines such as Belle and renovation TV show "The Block" purchased and featured a piece in it's 2013 season. Amber's works rely on her colourist tendencies and her ability to capture a playful and innocent representation of her life. Her use of colour has a simplistic appearance however, this simplicity is achieved through a skillful and rather sophisticated control and application of numerous layers of paint.

Currently Amber is working towards achieving her dream of being selected as a finalist in the Archibald Prize.

Damien Woods

Born 1975

Ararat High School 1987 - 1992

Head of Performing Arts Ballarat High School



Damien started playing the Piano in Grade 4 and then continued his love for music when he took up the trombone in Year 7 at AHS. He also enjoyed throwing the shot put and discus at the sports days competing at the state finals but it was music that was to become his life. He performed in the training band and school band under the direction of Peter Baxter then joined the newly formed stage band under the direction of Ros Jennings. He also enjoyed the classroom aspect playing Piano in many of the class gigs. Damien also became Band Corporal of the Ararat City Brass Band playing Bass Trombone. He continued to play in all performances offered by the school and the City Band ranging from school ensembles, busking and solo gigs in the community. Under the direction of his teacher Jo Lofts, he also attended and then taught at the Wimmera Band school music camps. It was in Year 11 that he realised teaching was his passion and started building up a clientele of students on Piano, trombone and theory.

Damien was fortunate enough to be accepted into Melbourne University where he completed his Bachelor of Music (teaching). While at University he was offered a teaching position shared between Ararat Secondary College, Lake Bolac and regional primary schools. He was then offered a position at Ballarat High School where he is presently Head of Performing Arts. Ballarat High School has a very large music programme with over 800 students learning music. He played a leading role in introducing Vet music in to the school and securing a \$100,000 grant for a recording studio. He arranges the music for the concert band and arranges and directs a 45 piece contemporary stage band. This band "BOB" performs regularly at festivals and is a popular band to be part of.

Along with his large teaching load, Damien custom arranges music for many schools across Australia and performs in his own ensembles on Keyboard and trombone. He also presents lectures on Music Education at Melbourne and Deakin University. Damien also directs a community big band who are about to perform the works of THE BLUES BROTHERS. Damien's underlying philosophy towards his performing and teaching is Enjoyment, Enthusiasm and Engagement.

Robyn Curnow

Born 1977

Ararat High School 1989 - 1994

Australian Government Solicitors Office

Ararat Community College Dux 1994



Robyn completed a combined Arts/Law degree at Melbourne University with honours in both degrees. As part of her degrees she studied Russian and spent time in Russia, firstly in Moscow and St Petersburg and later for six months in Novosibirsk in Siberia. As part of her course she studied Chinese law doing a summer course in Shanghai. She completed her articles with the Director of Public Prosecutions in Victoria and went to work with the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions in Brisbane and Darwin. She also spent 6 months working for the United Nations in Vienna. In 2009 she completed her Master of Law degree at Queensland University. She is now in Melbourne and works for the Australian Government Solicitors Office.

Dean Moore

Born 1974
Ararat High School 1987 - 1992
Musician, Composer and Teacher



While at Secondary college Dean was involved in all aspects of school life but music was his passion. He started learning piano/keyboard under the then music teacher Ros Jennings in the school music program. He was involved in the school's stage band for 6 years, and played keyboard and guitar for the numerous college productions. Dean was a keen sportsman and represented the school in both athletics (discus) and squash at state level. Dean began teaching piano and guitar at age 17 after discovering a natural talent for inspiring and nurturing the musical passions of others. Dean then moved to Melbourne where he completed a Bachelor of Arts in Instrumental Studio Music at Deakin University. It was there that Dean discovered the world of Jazz and improvisation and was very fortunate to study for three years under the guidance of one of Australia's most well respected jazz pianist/educators, Tony Gould.

Dean has worked as the musical director/arranger for a number of corporate ensembles, playing with many members of Melbourne's elite jazz fraternity and currently performs regularly with the Dean Moore Jazz Trio. Dean continues to compose music for short films and has written a number of successful stage musicals with local Ararat playwrights and past Ararat College teachers John Mawson and Rob Smith (Play on Words). Many of these shows have been performed by Ararat Secondary College and at schools around the country. Dean is an experienced musician and teacher, specializing in Jazz and Classical piano. Dean has been teaching piano for 22 years. His results and rapport with students is highly regarded and he has had great success with students ranging from 4 to 65 years of age. Dean is married with 2 young sons and lives in Tecoma.

Marian Chapman

Born 1976
Ararat High School 1988 - 1993
General Counsel for Department Treasury and Finance
Ararat Community College Dux 1993



Marian thoroughly enjoyed her secondary education. The teaching staff were exceptional, motivated, caring and highly supportive. The dedication to students shown by Marian's VCE teachers, in particular, is something she considers to have been instrumental, not only in her learning and education opportunities and choices, but also in her approach to life and career. Marian's VCE teachers continually made themselves available to her and to others after school hours for additional learning support and she was, and remains, particularly grateful to Robert Chapman, Margaret Chapman, Ian McGregor, Geoff Parkinson, John Mawson and Peter Baxter who went above and beyond to assist, guide and teach.

After graduating as Dux of Ararat Secondary College in 1993, Marian attended the University of Melbourne, graduating in 1998 with a Bachelor of Laws (Hons). Marian worked as a graduate taxation accountant for a year and in 1999 commenced her Articles of Clerkship with Lander and Rogers lawyers, a commercial legal practice in Melbourne.

Marian left Lander and Rogers in 2002 to move to London. At this time, Marian started working as a lawyer in the public service, initially for a local council in North London, and later for central government in the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. Marian returned to Australia in 2006 where she worked as an in-house lawyer for Places Victoria (formerly VicUrban). In 2009, Marian moved to the legal team at the Victorian Department of Treasury and Finance. Marian was appointed as the General Counsel for the Department in 2012. Marian has two children - Thomas (5) and Isabella (1) and is (sometimes!) happily renovating a house in the Dandenong Ranges.

Paul Penna

Born 1975
Ararat High School 1988 - 1993
Director of Focus Performance Psychology



Paul was born in Foster, but spent most of his childhood in Ararat. Originally attending Ararat West Primary School then Ararat High School. He commenced university studies in Melbourne in 1994. He completed two years of physical education studies, before transferring to study Psychology, and then Honours and Masters of Sport Psychology. Before moving to Sydney to finalise his tertiary studies, Paul worked extensively in the health and fitness industry; gymnasium instructor, swim coach, personal trainer and gymnasium/pool manager at Crown Towers, Melbourne. In 2001, while studying his Masters of Psychology, Paul commenced work at the NSW Institute of Sport, assisting the many developing and elite sporting programs. Paul has worked with athletes on three Olympic and Paralympics teams, attending the 2008 Beijing Olympics; 2004, 2005 and 2007 world swimming championships and the 2006 Melbourne Commonwealth Games. He attended a Rotary Youth Leadership Awards camp in 1995 – and was then employed as a motivational speaker at camps for ten years in two Rotary districts in Victoria and New South Wales. His professional appointments have included Australian Olympic Committee, Australian Commonwealth Games Association, Swimming Australia, Netball New South Wales, NRL, AFL Players' Association, Triathlon Australia, West Tigers Rugby Club, Sydney University Sport & Fitness, Bowls Australia and Cricket New South Wales, as well as a number of Businesses and Secondary Schools.

Paul currently lives in Sydney, married with four children, and is the Director and Senior Psychologist at Focus Performance Psychology.

Lyndal Alexander (nee Penna)

Born 1977
Ararat High School 1990 - 1995
Floral Artist



After Lyndal completed her education at Ararat High School she acquired a junior position with the late renowned Kevin O'Neill Florist, then at his David Jones store in Bourke Street, Melbourne and shortly after progressed to the main store on Toorak Road, South Yarra. Kevin O'Neill was a society florist known as "the king of flowers" and there wasn't a party or main event without being decorated and styled by the Kevin O'Neill team. Lyndal soon became a valuable senior floral designer and consultant, creating stylish designs for Melbourne's Spring Carnival, David Jones Flower Shows, Grand Prix, The Art Centre, leading city hotels as well as the most extravagant to very intimate parties and weddings for the country's celebrities and socialites. From there Lyndal leapt into co-creating her first business Flair Flowers & Design, which soon became one of Melbourne's leading florists. For over ten years Lyndal and her team impressed the private, corporate and social scenes across Melbourne and country Victoria, including leading hotels, restaurants, reception venues, private homes, musical theatre openings, Spring Racing Carnival, Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show - winning a silver medal with her first exhibit.

Lyndal has worked in London for the exclusive Pulbrook & Gould of Sloane Street, providing flowers of the best quality and creativity to royalty and celebrities of the UK and beyond. Lyndal Alexander Flowers & Design is her newest endeavour, focusing on a unique one-on-one style of operation.

Lyndal continues to work with Melbourne's finest florists and their teams to create and install floral displays.

Joanne Richie

Born	1974
Ararat Secondary College	1987 - 1992
Occupational Therapist	
Duke of Edinburgh Award, Silver	1991
Ararat Secondary College Dux	1992



Joanne graduated dux of Ararat Secondary College in 1992. Looking to work in the health sector she was attracted to Occupational Therapy by the wide range of subjects offered in the course including anatomy, physiology, neuroscience as well as the impact of illness and disability on the individual.

Joanne studied Occupational Therapy at La Trobe University graduating with fourth year honours in 1999. Her honours research project was a qualitative one, introducing Joanne to a type of inquiry that focused on the views and experiences of others.

Once qualified Joanne worked as Occupational Therapist in Warrnambool and Ararat; however the challenges of clinical work and the lure of qualitative focused project and research roles put Joanne on an alternative career trajectory.

Over the last 6 years Joanne has worked on a range of projects both locally and regionally in a broad range of areas including accessible transport, allied health workforce issues, the inclusion and engagement of people with a disability in the wider community and transport disadvantage. When asked about her most rewarding role Joanne talks about Dad to Dad – a program that she had a role in developing that gave fathers of people with disability an opportunity to meet, enjoy a weekend away and talk about their experiences and knowledge. ‘It was fantastic (and humbling) to witness a group of dads meet and discover just how much they could share with each other’.

Joanne’s current activities include teaching Cert IV Allied Health Assistance at University of Ballarat and doing a post-graduate program in transformative learning for sustainable living with the Oases Graduate School in Hawthorn.

Dr Catherine Eltringham (nee Richie)

Born	1977
Ararat Secondary College	1990 - 1995
Medical Educator	
Ararat Secondary College Dux	1995



Catherine Eltringham graduated Dux of Ararat Secondary College in 1995. At school Catherine played the cornet and was a member of the school Stage and Brass Bands; she continued to pursue an interest in music, playing the trumpet in the Army Reserve Concert Band.

After finishing school Catherine studied Medicine at Monash University graduating in 2001. She initially worked at Geelong before moving to Brisbane to work in Emergency Medicine and Intensive Care. In 2009 Catherine started her training in General Practice and continues to enjoy working with patients and their families through all aspects of their medical care. After completing her GP training in 2011 on the Sunshine Coast (Queensland) Catherine was offered a position as a Medical Educator; teaching and mentoring doctors who are training in General Practice. In this role Catherine has had the opportunity to extend her knowledge and skills further and explore what Catherine describes as one of the most fulfilling roles of her career.

David Atkin

Born 1976

Ararat High School 1989 - 1994

Chemical Engineer



Being a farm boy who played football and cricket for Tatyoon, most of David's spare time was in the country. At school he didn't have a permanent home and would share his time with many of the various groups during breaks playing basketball (badly), talking computers and X-files, dabbling at music, or simply hanging out. The most memorable class would have to have been Mr McGregor's VCE Chemistry, it was this class that led David to follow a career in Chemical Engineering.

After secondary school David obtained a dual Engineering/Science degree at the University of Melbourne and then started work for Shell at the Shell Geelong Refinery in 2000. Since this time he has worked in a number of roles for Shell in Geelong, Amsterdam, and Qatar. Notable achievements whilst at Shell have been the; Design and construction of the hydrocracking unit in a 2nd generation biofuels plant in Germany. Opened by German Chancellor Angela Merkel. Design, construction, commissioning of the US\$20bIn Gas-to-Liquids (GTL) plant in Qatar, the largest GTL facility and most complex refinery in the world. Patents for a new processing route to produce an industrial grade lubricant from a GTL process.

He later went back to university and received an MBA from the University of Warwick in the UK. He is now a Production Unit Manager at the Geelong Refinery, responsible for the day-to-day running of half of the refinery. During his career with Shell David has represented Shell in snow skiing competitions, been married and then had two children in Amsterdam, lived in the Middle East for 3 years, and was a cofounder of the Dutch Australian Football Association (DAFA) with the honour of being the inaugural captain/coach of the Dutch national side (The Flying Dutchmen).

Graeme William Cooper

Born 1977

Ararat Technical School 1990

Ararat Secondary College 1991 - 1995

Detailed Joinery / Firefighter



Graeme Cooper grew up in Ararat with sister Michelle, brother Peter and parents Colin and Jennifer Cooper. He graduated from Ararat Secondary College in 1995. Graphics was his best achievement in year 12 when one of his CAT's was selected for the Top CAT's award and was put on display in an arts & graphics exhibition in Melbourne with selected works from the top 1% around the state. He started an apprenticeship in Joinery/Shop fitting and Stair building in the family business, Ararat Joinery Works. In 1996 as a first year apprentice he became involved in the World Skills Competition competing at the Ballarat Region in the category of Detailed Joinery where he came 1st. He then went on to compete nationally in Canberra gaining 4th place. In 1998 he competed in the next round again gaining a 1st in the Ballarat Regional Competition and went on to win the Nationals in Melbourne in 1999. This secured him a place on the Australian team to compete in Joinery at the World Youth Skill Olympics in Montreal, Canada in 1999 where he placed 15th. Graeme then went on to become team leader for the Ballarat Regional team and international supporter for the Australian team in Switzerland in 2003 and later a Regional and National judge and project designer in joinery.

Looking for a new challenge in 2006 and having enjoyed volunteering with the Ararat Fire Brigade for 10 years Graeme had a career change from Joinery and became a Career Firefighter with the Country Fire Authority. Graeme was stationed at Wodonga for 2 years then transferred to Ballarat City Fire Brigade where he currently holds the rank of Leading Fire Fighter and Fire Investigator. Graeme is still very passionate about his joinery specializing in fine woodwork on his days off.

Captain Thomas W Clark

Born 1979
Ararat Secondary College 1992 - 1997
Officer with Her Majesty's Armed Forces



- 1997** Conducted the Stawell Brass Band.
- 1998** Travelled Europe and successfully auditioned for the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music and the Grenadier Guards Band.
- 1999** Joined the British Army and underwent Basic Training in Winchester.
- 2000** Studied performance and academic music at Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall in London under Patrick Harrild (Principal Tuba London Symphony Orchestra).
- 2000 - 2004** Played with the Grenadier Guards band in London.
- 2002** Toured Canada with the band (5 major cities).
- 2003** Toured the USA (63 concerts) with the Band under Columbia Records Management.
- 2004** Founded 'Sunday Café' a music promotion company based in London.
- 2005** Attended the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst for Officer Training.
- 2006** Posted to the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders based in Canterbury.
- 2006** Deployed to Op HERRICK 6 (Afghanistan) as Aide de Camp to Brigadier Butler (Commander British Forces) in Kabul and Kandahar.
- 2007** Posted to Regimental Headquarters as the Officer Recruiter.
- 2009** Assumed directorship of the family business Gumnut Holiday Camp and Gumnut Adventures.
- 2010** Posted to the Queen's Royal Hussars in Germany.
- 2011** Conducted jungle survival training in Belize and was Officer Commanding. Adventure Training on St George's Caye, a Caribbean island.
- 2011** Deployed to Op HERRICK 15 (Afghanistan).
- 2012** Posted to the Defence Human Intelligence Unit as part of the Joint Forces Intelligence Group.

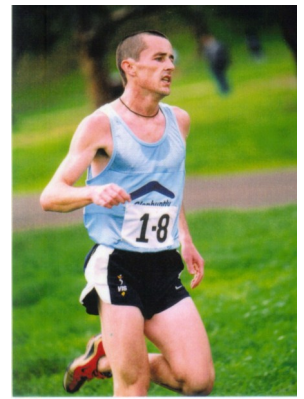
On leaving school, Capt. Clark worked in Halls Gap for 6 months to earn money to travel. Having travelled widely throughout Europe he successfully auditioned for the Grenadier Guards Band based in central London. Returning briefly to Australia he also successfully auditioned to the Conservatorium of Music in Melbourne before deciding to return to England. Following military and musical training he joined the Band of the Grenadier Guards playing regularly at the Changing of the Guards at Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle and on many international tours including the USA, Canada, Sweden and Belgium. He also played at many State Ceremonies for Heads of State such as, Vladimir Putin, Jacques Chirac, Tony Blair, George Bush and regularly for the Royal Family. He played annually for the Queen at her Birthday Parade and was part of the opening sequence of the Commonwealth Games in Manchester. After Commissioning as an Officer he has served in Afghanistan twice, Canada, Belize, Germany and the United Kingdom. Tom has a wife Cate and 2 children, Sophia and Maximilian. His claims to fame are having dined with Prince Phillip, Scottish Danced with Hercule Poirot and played Happy Birthday to the Queen Mother.

He enjoys Fencing, Shooting and Offshore Sailing. As a qualified skipper he will be racing the famous and formidable Rolex sponsored Fastnet offshore yacht race later this year. He plans to return to the Grampians in the future to run the family business promoting adventurous pursuits to underpin health, a sense of adventure and leadership training.

(Capt Clark - pictured left)

Mark Thompson

Born 1979
Ararat Secondary College 1991 - 1996
Champion Long distance Runner



Mark Thompson was introduced to the sport of middle distance running by Kevin Maple who at the time was the Assistant Principle of Ararat Secondary College. Taking his opportunities throughout the various school competitions, Mark was able to develop into one of the best Junior and Senior Distance Runners in the Nation, breaking National Junior Records over 5000m and representing Australia on 17 occasions as a Cross Country and Track Runner.

After graduating with the class of 1996, Mark moved to Canberra to take up an Australian Institute of Sport Scholarship for distance running, whilst after a few years away from study went onto to get his Bachelor of Education – Health & Physical Education degree at the University of Canberra. Mark graduated in 2007 and took up an ongoing teaching position in the Northern Country Victorian town of Numurkah.

Mark married his high school sweet heart Paula Mooney (now Thompson), who also was a graduate from the class of 1996. Paula has patiently supported his sporting endeavours, moving to live with Mark in Canberra in 1998. The pair welcomed their first and only child (Jasmin) into the world in 2006 just before Mark graduated from his University studies.

Mark believes his greatest achievements since leaving Ararat Secondary College have been: representing Australia 17 times; placing 4th in the 1998 World Junior 5000m Championships in France; winning the Australian Cross Country Championships in 2002; placing 2nd in Sydney's City to Surf in 2003; graduating with a Bachelor of Education from the University of Canberra; and marrying his wife Paula and continuing to raise his wonderful daughter Jasmin!

David Andrew Neaum

Born 1979
Ararat Secondary College 1991 - 1996
Anglican Priest



Having been born in Zimbabwe and starting his schooling on the Island of St. Helena David was no stranger to travel. After high school he continued his travels by going to Argentina as a Rotary exchange student before starting at Trinity College, Melbourne. Following his graduation from Melbourne University with a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy he took the unusual decision to spend a year living with a monastic community in Yorkshire, England. There he worked in the gardens for his keep while following a private course of study and engaging fully in monastic life. This continued a pattern he established during university of gardening during the year and working night shifts at an abattoir during the holidays to support his university education. After being selected to train for the priesthood in the Church of England he studied at Cambridge and attended Westcott House theological college. Having served in a rural Dorset parish and the University Church in Oxford he is now Chaplain of St. Catherine's College Cambridge while completing a PhD at Emmanuel College. However he remains nostalgic about his first job selling the pelts of rabbits sourced from down the Tatyoon road.

1993 - 2002

The Secondary College was starting to settle down into some semblance of order and routine when the Kennett Government won the election. The Minister of Education decided that the College should be located on one site. The School Council had to decide which. In some ways this was a more stressful decision as there was a choice between two good campuses plus people had their past loyalties. The final decision of the Council to move to one site was decided by a majority of one vote.

But under pressure the Government supported the move with an extensive building program. This included the gymnasium, a new technology centre and a new science room. The hall was turned into a larger library, and a new home economics, music, drama centre was built which could be changed into an assembly hall by the use of folding doors. Again this involved an enormous amount of staff time. Negotiating with the School of Mines Ballarat, the University of Ballarat built a campus on site which offered tertiary education. The Secondary School became Ararat Community College.

Despite the goodwill, all these changes came at personal cost, particularly to staff who were required to make many adjustments and whose work load increased greatly. Staff numbers were reduced and a number of long serving staff took the opportunity to move to other work when salary packages were offered.

Gary Allen returned to the School as Principal (1998 –2000). This period saw special programs enhanced for a range of students - gifted, leaders, students studying alternate courses . The year 8 Language Centre Camp was replaced by the Queensland Camp in 1998; the Mittagundi trips began in order to challenge students to work together in a distant bush setting . Another innovation set up by Alison Jacobs was a biennial New Caledonia trip staying with families, studying French and participating in the island culture: food, feasts, boats, shops.

The staging of the Olympic Games in Sydney highlighted the start of the new millennium, and the school was well represented in the Olympic Torch relay as it made its journey around Australia. Torchbearers included staff member, Mrs Gaye Williams and students Kylie Howlett and Daryl Fenn. The students of the school were an integral part of the celebrations at Alexandra Oval to welcome the torch. Past student, and local hero, Shane Kelly won a bronze medal at the games in the 1km time trial.

Jennifer Cameron

Born 1979

Ararat Secondary College 1993 - 1997

Events Management



Jennifer grew up in Sydney, Australia and moved to Ararat in 1993. Jennifer started at Ararat College in year 9, and attended both the Barkly Street and Elizabeth Street campuses prior to the merger to one campus in 1997. She participated in all sports, and competed at the Wimmera level in Athletics and Swimming, and at the Western District level for Athletics.

Jennifer went on to complete a Bachelor of Applied Science (Human Movement)/Bachelor of Management at the University of Ballarat. After graduating, Jennifer began a career in events management, working at the Australian Open Tennis and on multiple University Games events within Australia. In 2004 Jennifer moved to London, to work and travel, and has since been travelling the world working on major international sporting events, including the 2006 Doha Asian Games, 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games, 2011 Rugby World Cup and the 2012 London Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games. Jennifer's career has given her the opportunity to reside in, and experience many different countries and cultures, living in the Middle East, Canada, New Zealand and London and to be involved in memorable sporting events. She is currently living in Canada working on the Pan and Parapan American Games as the Director of Logistics and plans to continue travelling and working in the events industry.

Michael Smith

Born 1981

Ararat Secondary College 1993 - 1998

Automotive



Michael commenced his secondary education in 1993, upon his completion at St Mary's Primary School. Michael chose the Community College due to its well-equipped trade orientated subjects, which in hindsight were to be the foundations to achieve his future goals. On reflection Michael admits he was a ratbag at school, stubborn and more than a little outspoken. Thankfully the teachers were patient and able to provide well-structured education. He enjoyed his time at Ararat Community College and often reminisces on the fun had and lessons learnt.

On completion of his VCE at the Ararat Community College, Michael commenced his first full-time employment with Ararat Mitsubishi, as an apprentice automotive technician. Once trade qualified, and with a passion for the automotive industry, Michael went on to complete additional educational courses, such as 'Accident Investigation' and 'Engineering Principles'. In 2002, wanting to further develop his career in the industry Michael relocated to Ballarat, eager for the exposure of a larger workshop. At the age of 24 Michael applied for a then vacant position, as a Service Manager within his organisation, a role he successfully fulfilled for many years.

In 2010 Michael returned to his hometown as Manager of Kings Cars, with aspirations of future ownership. Today his role as Dealer Principal is vastly different to his days as a Technician, now focusing on Business Management, Sales and Finance.

Michael and his family appreciate the country lifestyle and benefits of a tight-knit community. He is optimistic about the future and hopes to make a positive contribution within the community.

Nessa Jenkins

Born 1980
Ararat Secondary College 1993 - 1998

Australian Representative Clay Target Shooting

1997 First, Victorian School Boys Competition
2002 Gold medal, Women's Trap Pairs, Commonwealth Games (England)
2003 Silver Medal, Woman's Individual Trap, Oceania Shooting Federation Continental Championship (New Zealand)



Nessa started her Clay Target Shooting career at the age of fourteen while she was a student at Ararat Secondary College. A keen observer, it was no longer enough to stay at the sidelines while her father shot at the local club.

Once licensed, Nessa started shooting at a competitive level. Within six months Nessa won a State Jacket and she soon turned her sights to earning a place in the Australian team.

Hard work, patience and persistence paid off. Nessa made the Australian Team as a Junior and participated in her first international competition in Brunei. Still at school, Nessa describes her first overseas experience as 'mind blowing'.

As a member of the Australian Women's Team, Nessa competed in events in Japan, Italy, Finland, New Zealand, Egypt, Germany, England and Spain.

Nessa missed team selection for the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney; however the announcement that a Women's Clay Target Shooting event would be introduced at the 2002 Commonwealth Games soon gave Nessa a new goal.

Nessa made the team and at 22 years of age she won gold in the Women's Trap Pairs with Dianne Reeves from Queensland. As written in The Age on July 28, 2002 Nessa and Dianne '*wrote a new line in the Commonwealth Games history book - yesterday was the first time women have shot in medal-standard trap events at the games.*'

Nessa has stepped back from shooting, she is a mum and continues to live and work in the Ararat area.

Laura Schwab

Born 1982
Ararat Community College 1995 - 2000

Physiotherapist



Laura graduated from La Trobe University in 2004 as a Physiotherapist and then went on to complete her Masters Degree in Sports Physiotherapy in 2007 at the University of Queensland. During 2008 she worked at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra as the Post Graduate Physiotherapy Scholar predominately with the Matilda's Women's Soccer team. She also completed research on shoulder injuries, which is published in the UK Physical Therapy in Sport Journal.

Laura presently is a physiotherapist for the Australian National Swimming Team and also the National Women's Rugby 7s team. She has also worked with the National Women's Waterpolo team, state soccer, rowing and, further to this, works with the Australian Paralympic Sport of Goalball. Through her work and passion for travel she has been to over 35 countries.

Laura also has also been a representative at both a State and National level in the sport of golf and is a keen cyclist. She currently resides in Brisbane with her partner Alex.

Amy Harris

Born 1983

Ararat Secondary College 1996 - 1998

Professional Ballet Dancer

Australian Ballet Company



Amy was born in Ararat and completed her primary education at Ararat West Primary School and then attended Ararat College from 1996 to 1998, completing years 7 to 9. She completed her VCE (Years 11 and 12) at the prestigious Australian Ballet School during the first 2 years of her full-time dance training. Amy knew from an early age that she wanted to be a ballerina and set her goals to achieve her dream. She advises any young student to follow their dreams and work hard to achieve their goals.

Amy began dancing at Rosengreen's School of Dancing, in Ararat at the age of three. From the age of ten, she trained in the Cecchetti method of classical ballet with the Carole Oliver School of Ballet in Ballarat, and as a Cecchetti scholar won bronze and silver medals. She received many awards at eisteddfods around regional Victoria and Melbourne; and was the winner of the Courier Classical Solo at the Royal South Street Competitions in 1997.

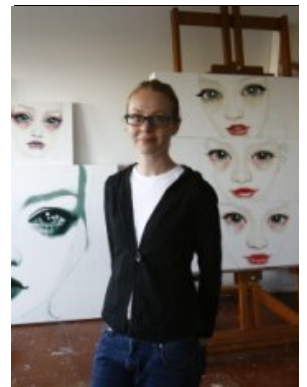
After successfully auditioning for the prestigious Australian Ballet School at the end of 1998, Amy left Ararat at age 15 to commence her full-time training and graduated with honours in 2001 with an Advanced Diploma of Classical Dance. She joined The Australian Ballet in 2002. Amy has danced many roles including the principal roles of Hanna in the Merry Widow, and the Baroness in Graeme Murphy's Swan Lake, and has toured to Europe, England and America with the Company. She is currently a Senior Artist with the Company. Amy was the recipient of the Telstra Ballet Dancer of the Year Award in 2012 and also the Telstra People's Choice award in 2008 and 2010.

Jodie Candy

Born 1979

Ararat Secondary College 1996 - 1997

Artist and Photographer



Following on from school Jodie attended RMIT where she studied Visual Arts, then Victoria University Fine Arts at the Victoria College of Arts and gained Certificate 4 in small business. She now runs her own business, offering over 10 different artistic services to customers. She was shortlisted in metro 5 Art Award. Jodie came first in the Melbourne underground film festival art exhibition and recently she won a photography competition in Canada. She has been exhibiting for over 15 years, and has started offering photographic services locally.

Jodie teaches painting classes, and will soon be offering life drawing sessions in the heart of Geelong's CBD. Jodie lives in beautiful Ocean Grove on the Bellerine Peninsula. She has a wonderful community around her. Her partner is the local postie. They have a blessed life. She has a huge exhibition coming up, at the Royal Melbourne Exhibition Buildings. It is the first time she is representing herself. "It is a little scary, and heaps of work; but extremely rewarding." She paints large portraits of females who are accompanied by birds, have a touch of the 1920's and Melbourne Cup, or a little bridal; adorned with roses and vintage royal head pieces.

Dr Kortnye Morris (nee Smith)

Born	1982
Ararat Community College	1995 - 2000
Specialist Physician—Infectious Diseases	
Ararat Community College Dux	2000



Kortnye was actively involved in all facets of school life. As well as participating in sport, she was a key member of interschool debating teams as well as representing the college in public speaking. She took part in the program to develop business skills where hand painted glasses were promoted and marketed. Kortnye was a key member of the College Concert Band, playing flute. However in terms of extra curricula activities, it was the school musical production in which she excelled. She was a participant in every year of her schooling and this culminated in Year 12 with a lead role in “Bye Bye Birdie”. All this while working two part time jobs!

After her outstanding results in Year 12, Kortnye was accepted into Medicine at both Monash University and the University of Adelaide, choosing the latter with a major scholarship. Kortnye has since graduated and has worked at the Royal Adelaide hospital particularly dealing with patients with infectious diseases, especially tuberculosis, as the hospital provides treatment for patients from the countries to the north, particularly Papua New Guinea. She is at present seeking admission into the physician speciality. She enjoys long distance running and lives in Adelaide with her neurosurgeon husband Tom and their two children. While on family leave, Kortnye oversaw practice based learning activities for the medical faculty at her university.

Leigh Nicholas

Born	1982
Ararat Community College	1995 - 2000
Geologist	
Melbourne University	2001 – 2005



After completing his primary schooling at Ararat West, Leigh would join his father at Ararat High School. Graham was a Science and Maths teacher with a passion for sport and outdoors and this was a passion shared with his son. It was clear from his early schooling that Leigh was adept at both Mathematics and Science as well as being a great cricket player. After graduating from High School with a Tertiary Enter of 96, Leigh was offered a scholarship to study Science at the University of Melbourne where he graduated with Honors in Geology.

All work and no play makes for a dull life, so Leigh took a year off and travelled the world, starting in England where he had a short career playing County Cricket; he then travelled through Europe, Egypt and South America.

On returning to Australia Leigh began working with Rio Tinto in Tom Price where he was a field geologist for 3 years, before accepting a promotion which saw him relocating to Perth and becoming Superintendent Structural Geology, ensuring the safety and economic viability of Rio Tinto mines. When not working Leigh is a volunteer lifeguard, kite surfer and mountain bike rider. He credits success at school and university to the dedication and hard working staff at Ararat High School.

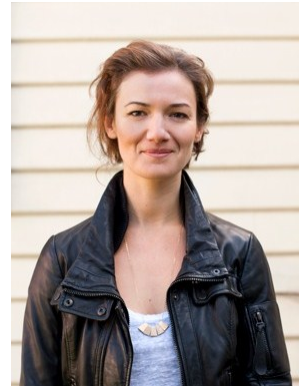
Martina Gemmola

Born 1982

Ararat Community College 1995 - 2000

Freelance Commercial Photographer

2003 RMIT Bachelor of Arts (Photography) with Distinction



Martina's time at Ararat Secondary College served as an integral part in developing and shaping her future as a creative woman in business. Embracing the opportunities that were offered in the Arts, she kept busy with school productions, various leadership roles, after school teaching art to people with disabilities, and many hours in the darkroom. Encouraged by a photographic award, she entered the highly sought after degree in Commercial Photography at RMIT. After graduating with Distinction, Martina spent 5 years in Greece and Los Angeles managing a commercial studio and refining her craft. Martina is now residing in Melbourne, freelancing as a commercial photographer and is firmly embedded in the local creative community. She has worked as a project manager on various creative assignments, and also volunteers her time to The Creative Women's Circle, a network that supports women in creative industries.

Specialising in interiors, portraits & lifestyle photography, her work has been exhibited in both Australia and America, and can be seen in many publications, as well as at www.gemmola.com.

Jessie Mawson

Born 1984

Ararat Community College 1997 - 2002

Media Manager Amnesty International

2004 - 2006 Deakin University and Victoria University (Canada)

2006 - 2008 Gap Activities Projects

2008 - 2010 Manningham City Council and OXFAM Australia volunteer intern

2010 Dakar, Bangladesh UNICEF, as part of AYAD program

2011 - 2013 The Wilderness Society

2013 Amnesty International Australia



Jessie was born at Ararat Hospital in June 1984 and attended Ararat North Primary school before starting at Ararat Community College in 1997. Jessie loved school and took up many opportunities there including camps, school productions and three trips to the Mittagundi outdoor education centre. Jessie was a School Captain in her final year in 2002. A GAP year in the tiny village of Gayton, in England, working at the private charity 'Mill House', for people with mental health problems, followed, before Jessie began her tertiary studies at Deakin University in Burwood. She studied Professional Writing and Editing. This included a 6 month exchange to Victoria University in Canada, and extensive travel around Mexico and the United States. On return Jessie worked for the GAP organization, 2006 - 08, and as a Publications Officer for Manningham City Council before being selected to become an Australian Youth Ambassador for Development. This entailed working with UNICEF in Dakar, Bangladesh, for twelve interesting and sometimes confronting months. Some of the highlights were working with groups of orphan or 'at risk' girls and the building project 'Habitat for Humanity'. While living in Bangladesh Jessie had the chance to visit Bhutan, Nepal and China. Jessie returned to Australia to work for The Wilderness Society and complete her Master of Arts, Publishing and Communication at Melbourne University. She was instrumental in arranging the 'Concert for the Kimberley' in Federation Square featuring John Butler. She has now relocated to Sydney and is managing social media for Amnesty International Australia, a non government organization with which she has had a long association.

Marcus Poppe

Born 1982

Ararat Community College 1995 - 2000

Aerospace Engineer



Marcus had an interest in all things academic and sport that the Ararat Community College had to offer. He represented the school in swimming and running at a regional level and in 1999 became the Wimmera swimming champion. While attending the Ararat Community College Marcus worked at the YMCA as a lifeguard, gained his black belt in Taekwondo and flew gliders with the local Grampians soaring club.

After completing his VCE he went on to study aerospace engineering at RMIT. With the great educational base that ACC provided he graduated with first class honors. Marcus started his career as a structural engineer in 2006 working on one of the most modern international aircraft programs in Melbourne. Currently he is working in Germany as a senior engineer on major structural components for Airbus Military. Maintaining a good balance of sport he's still a keen swimmer and plays football for the local aussie rules club, the Munich Kangaroos.

Chris and Robert Smellin

Born 1987

Ararat Community College 2000 - 2005

Writers / Directors of Short Film



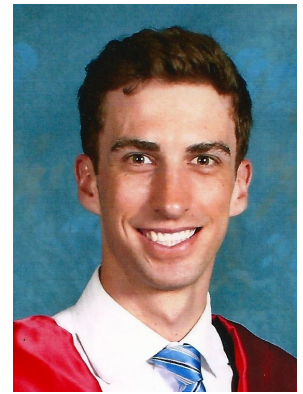
Chris Smellin: "My time at school: I remember I spent most, if not all my time, at school working on my media productions with my twin brother Robert. Don't remember getting into much trouble. I would say most people thought we were cinema obsessed and they weren't wrong."

Achievements following school: Chris and Robert Smellin both hold a Masters in Creative Media (film and TV) from RMIT University and a Bachelor of screen production from Holmesglen, where they were awarded the most outstanding student award from over 50,000 students.

Together as writer/directors they have completed a number of short films that have screened at over 60 film festivals around the world including WorldFest - Houston International film festival (where they have won five REMI awards), Dungog film festival, Fright Night film festival, Shriekfest film festival, Tallgrass film festival, West Chester International short film festival, Shockerfest and Atlanta, Melbourne and Denver underground film festivals. Furthermore they have done countless corporate videos and wedding videos for a number of years and have both lectured at RMIT and Holmesglen. Currently the twin writer/directors are developing an 85 minute revenge thriller .

Dr Lachlan Brennan

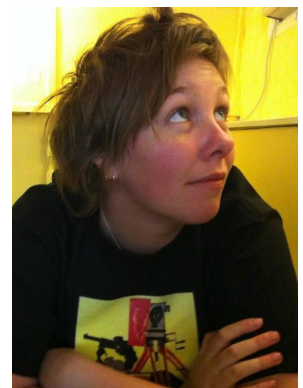
Born	1987
Ararat Community College	2000 - 2005
Graduate Doctor of Medicine	
Ararat Community College Dux	2005



Lachlan was born in Ararat and completed all six years of his secondary education at Ararat College, graduating as Dux in 2005 and receiving an Australian Students Prize for Excellence for his efforts. After a gap year working in the disability sector in the UK he commenced his medical studies at the University of Melbourne in 2007. A number of scholarships assisted with his studies and residence at Queens College where he was the President of the student council in his third year. Lachlan was fortunate to travel to places as diverse as Deniliquin and New York during the course of his studies. He graduated in 2012 with honors in both Bachelor of Medical Science and Bachelor of Surgery. Lachlan was offered an intern position at the Royal Melbourne Hospital for 2013 and has been working in a range of medical fields at that hospital. He is now looking forward to choosing a specialty field and putting his skills to good use in regional and rural areas in the future.

Whitney Monaghan

Born	1988
Ararat Community College	2000 - 2005
Film and Television Production	



Whitney was born on June 27th 1988 and studied at Ararat Community College between 2000 and 2005. While Biology was her best subject, she began to develop a love of cinema in English and English Literature, particularly in the later years of high school. After leaving Ararat Community College, she moved to Melbourne where she studied a Bachelor of Arts at Monash University. She graduated with a double major in film and TV studies and media and communications, although it was film and TV studies that she liked the most. In 2009, Whitney was accepted into an intensive year of further study with the film and TV studies department where she completed a project investigating the representation of lesbians on teen TV. This research won two prestigious prizes and she was invited to begin a PhD in the film and media studies program at Monash.

After three years of hard work, she is now in the final stages of her PhD. Her research examines representations of teenage lesbians and it contributes to an emerging field of research on queer teens and youth culture. Whitney hopes that it will lead to more diverse and sophisticated representations of these marginalised figures. Throughout her PhD she has been employed as a tutor at Monash where she is the primary contact with first year students in film and TV studies. Whitney has also been known to give the occasional guest lecture. She has presented her research at conferences around the world and has had work published in books, academic journals and online magazines—including a magazine called Peephole that she launched in 2013.

Ben Cashin

Born 1988

Ararat Community College 2001 - 2006

Sound Recordist and Camera Operator



During his time at school Ben enjoyed studying French, Drama and Media Studies. After school, Ben showed his initiative by heading to America to play with the Dallas Magpies (AFL) and experience Texas and visit places like New Orleans. Media Studies had particularly captured his interest, which inspired him to move to Adelaide and begin a Bachelor of Media Arts at the University of South Australia. He completed the degree in 2011 and then gained employment with the Seven Network after ten months of dedicated work experience. He is currently working for Channel Seven's Today/Tonight program in Adelaide as a sound recordist and camera operator. His work is something he loves and has given him a vehicle to travel the country and meet a range of different people such as the Prime Minister and Bob Geldof. Reflecting back on his time at Ararat College, he is grateful to the passionate teachers he had and the overall culture of the school community. His best friends are still the ones he made at school and for that and many reasons more Ararat College will always be a special place for him.

Tess Blackie

Born 1991

Ararat Community College 2004 - 2009

Law Student

Commenced Study at Deakin University 2010



During her time at Ararat College Tess was active in the Student Representative Council, acting as student representative to the School Council for her final two years at the College. Alongside Ms Lobry she was responsible for the referendum on the school motto which resulted in the replacement of the original Latin motto with the current 'Engage, Inspire, Enjoy' reflecting the school's new approach for the 21st century. She managed the Chaplaincy Breakfast Program from 2007-2009, took part in six school plays and was a member of both the Ararat College and Ararat Rural City Bands. In 2007 Tess was selected as Ararat College's student representative for the Department of Education's tour of China celebrating 10 years of partnership between Jiangshu province and Victoria. She caught the travel bug and never looked back.

Now in her fourth year of a double degree in Law and International Relations at Deakin University in Geelong, Tess has represented Deakin at the Golden Key International Honour Society Summit in Atlanta, Georgia and has recently returned from a second journey in China after being selected for the International Scholar Laureate Program's Delegation on Diplomacy. Tess has worked as an Editor for the Deakin Law Review and as a legal research assistant. Having spent the beginning of 2013 studying in Quebec and travelling in Europe Tess now speaks 'un peu français'. Once admitted to practice Tess hopes to work as a lawyer in the field of international human rights.



2003 - 2013

This decade saw the introduction of new curriculum programs at the college, the most significant of which was the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning, an alternative to the VCE. This program has been a real success story for those students who see their future in apprenticeships and on the job training, and the school forged partnerships with local businesses to facilitate work placements. The middle years also became a major focus with the introduction of new approaches to teaching students in Yrs 7 to 9, and the construction of the Middle Years Center when the school was accepted into the Leading Schools Program.

Students at the College have always been offered a wide range of extra curricula programs, and one of the highlights of this decade was the success of the school in the Rock Eisteddfod competitions in Melbourne. On no less than 3 occasions, the school team reached the state finals, a major achievement for a school of this size. It was produced by Deanne Clapton and magnificent costumes by Sue Burke. Several teams of students were also selected to attend the Alpine School, and this has become an eagerly sought after program for students in Year 9. The College continued to stage a musical production every year, despite the 'early' retirement of our drama guru, Mr Bryan Kennedy. The music program continued to flourish and Josh Akers winning the junior tenor trombone championship of Australia highlighted the quality of its graduates. School camps to Queensland, Lorne, Anglesea, Halls Gap, Melbourne and New Caledonia gave the students the opportunity to see many parts of Australia.

This decade saw a significant number of changes to the administration and teacher staff at the school. No less than four principals were in charge at some stage – Brendan Ryan, Geoff White, Brendan Bush and Geoff Sawyer, each making a major contribution to the development of programs and buildings. A number of very long serving staff members also retired. The school community was very saddened by the premature and sudden death of Debbie McDonald, a much loved PE and outdoor education teacher.

The physical environment of the school also changed significantly. A new middle years centre was constructed, the administration area of the school was refurbished and a new outdoor classroom was a welcome addition. The most significant change was the redevelopment of the science/maths wing into a science and language center, with state of the art science laboratories and facilities for video conferencing. The school grounds continued to be cared for and developed by Chris Barwick and his team of helpers and the gardens were recognized on a number of occasions by winning awards in the school garden awards.

In 2010 the school council made the decision to change the name of the school from Ararat Community College to Ararat College.

Since 2010 the school has continued to encourage all students and to provide them with the necessary opportunities to achieve their full academic, physical and social potential and to become proactive and well-rounded young citizens equipped to make a positive contribution to their community. The school is currently focussing on the implementation of a consistent approach to classroom teaching with the specific purpose of improving student learning outcomes. The school's buildings and grounds have continued to be maintained to a high standard but it is looking forward to a significant proportion of its buildings being upgraded in the near future. A new Trade Training Centre for VET Hospitality/Commercial Cooking is currently being constructed and this state of the art facility will be an invaluable asset to young people throughout the region as well as to the school.

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